More Girls Convicted Of Crimes Since War

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Sun. 11-26-46

Most Found Guilty Now Of Theft Rather Than Vagrancy

WETUMPKA, ALA., Nov. 25—(AP)—The end of the war has seen a substantial increase in Alabama girls being convicted for criminal offenses, Warden Josephine Barfield, of the Julia Tutwiler State Prison for Women, said today.

"And too," she reported, "Petty thefts have replaced vagrancy as the most frequent grounds for arrest."

Miss Barefield said during the past six to eight months the average monthly prison population has been about 230. During the war the average was approximately 190.

"Most of the girls sentenced to the prison," she said, "apparently learn a valuable lesson because the number of offenders coming back on new sentences has remained consistently low. We have only a handful of women and practically no young girls on the repeater list."

Prison records reveal in general:

Women serve average 16 to 18 month terms; they come, for the most part, from low income families; most have had practically no well-rounded home life; Negroes usually outnumber the whites; segregation of youthful offenders from older ones is carried out when possible.

Miss Barefield explained that since the prisoners live in barracks-type dormitories adequate segregation is not always possible.

"Only two college graduates," she commented, "have been sent to Julia Tutwiler in the past three years."

Miss Barefield said repeaters are mostly of a hardened type who might be classed as "habitual law breakers." They are older than the average and usually do not attempt to improve themselves through the prison's training program, she added.

The training although confined to sewing, housekeeping, gardening, and the like also seeks to place emphasis on correcting illiteracy through basic reading and writing classes.

"Most girls who stay with us as long as 9 or 10 months," she said, "learn how to read and write if they have the mental capacity and make reasonable effort.

"It is encouraging how many do cooperate and honestly try to improve themselves. On the whole women prisoners take a pride in their surroundings. They keep the dormitories clean and work hard beautifying the grounds."

Flower beds surround the dormitories and carefully pruned shrubbery is in evidence on the prison grounds.

Recreation, the warden said, is an important factor in the institution's attempt to rehabilitate the prisoners.

"They are allowed as much freedom as possible in planning a recreation program. Books are popular and magazines well read," she reported.

Miss Barefield, former welfare worker connected with a Birmingham training school, has been warden at Julia Tutwiler for most of Gov. Sparks' administration.

She is a graduate of Alabama College, Montevallo, and attended the University of Alabama. She holds a B. S. degree in sociology.

WARDEN BAREFIELD

Negro Home Robbed, White Men Sought

The News, Birmingham, Ala. Wed. 12-4-46

A widespread search was being made today by county and military police, for four white men, who, Corine Craig, Negro, of 1112 Southwest 16th Street, reported were dressed in what appeared to be Army uniforms and entered her home last night and robbed her of $134.

The woman said the men were armed with pistols and "army" rifles and after forcing her and her mother, Jennie Wood, to leave the house, took the money from a dresser drawer.

Army Military Police went to the scene to investigate the possibility that three of the men may have been escapees from Ft. McClellan, who have been sought for several days.

Birmingham police officers, who also went to the scene after the robbery was reported, discontinued their investigation and turned the case over to county officers when they learned the residence was outside the city limits.

White Farmer Critically Hurt In Pistol Duel

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Sun. 12-1-46

Negro Is Also Wounded; Confined In Kilby As 'Protective Measure'

LINDEN, ALA., Nov. 30—(AP)—A young white farmer of Marengo County and a Negro taxi driver from Birmingham were in critical condition tonight after each wounded the other in an exchange of pistol fire, Sheriff Wilmer Shields reported.

The white man, H. A. Bradford, 30, was shot four times—in the mouth, the body and in an arm and a leg. He is hospitalized at nearby Demopolis.

Sheriff Shields said the Negro, listed as George Hays, 41, was arrested a few minutes after the shooting and, as a protective measure, was taken to Kilby Prison, near Montgomery, and placed in the hospital there.

Hays was shot once with a 45 automatic, the bullet entering his breast, the sheriff reported.

Asked if there was any threat of mob action following the shooting, the sheriff first said he didn't know, but later declared "we weren't taking any chances" on such an occurrence.

The shooting occurred "on the edge" of property owned by Bradford about 2 p.m. yesterday, the sheriff related, adding that he did not know which man shot first, or what had touched off the gunplay.

The bullets which wounded Bradford were from a .45 special revolver.

The scene of the shooting was about four miles east of here, the sheriff reported, adding that the Negro had been formally charged with assault with itent to murder, pending the outcome of Bradford's condition.

1946 Arrests Near Record; Fines Up, Too

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Mon. 1-6-47

Traffic Offenses Lead; Screws Denies Boosts In Criminal Tendencies

By COLIN MacGUIRE

The greatest number of arrests made by the Montgomery Police Department in many years, and perhaps a near-record, was shown yesterday when Chief of Police Ralph B. King made public the police annual report for 1946.

He listed a total of 21,180 arrests, with an assessment of $119,400 in fines for 1946, as compared with 13,821 arrests and $86,933 levied in fines for the preceding year.

Collections Rise

The department has never been known to collect all fines passed against offenders—and last year was no exception. Despite this fact, Chief King claims the efficiency of the department is increasing, because a larger percentage was collected in 1946 than ever before. Of the $119,400 levied $116,933 was collected, whereas in 1945 only $79,166 of $86,913 was paid by law violators.

Gen. W. P. Screws, city commissioner, disclosed yesterday that the bulk of arrests made in 1946 were for minor traffic violations and the fact that so many arrests were made was no indication that the criminal tendencies of Montgomerians were getting worse.

"This is the first time in the history of the department," continued Screws, "that all personnel has been allowed a day off each week. It has done a great deal in improving the morale of the men, and has almost eliminated absenteeism. The policy has been in force now for almost three months."

The Advertiser

A breakdown of arrests made for the year 1946 indicates that the majority of the cases were pressed against white males. The breakdown follows:

Montgomery Ala.

White male offenders	14,261
White female offenders	1,684
Negro male offenders	4,628
Negro female offenders	617

Mon. 1-6-47

Offenses Listed

Offenses causing the largest number of arrests for 1946 are as follows:

The Advertiser

Violation of traffic law	9,805
Drunkeness	3,823
Arrested on suspicion	1,662
Disorderly conduct	1,430
Collision (traffic)	982
Violation of speed law (trf.)	881
Assault and battery	523
Driving while drunk (trf.)	283
Gaming	232
Grand larceny	190
Reckless driving (traffic	126
Vagrancy	113

Mon. 1-6-47

Other offenses listed that had less than a hundred violators; aiding prostitution, assault to murder, assault to rob, attempt to commit a felony, arson, begging, burglary, carrying brass knuckles or knife, carrying concealed pistol, carnal knowledge, crime against nature, contempt of court, defacing property, discharging fire arms, discharging fire-works, embezzlement, escape, false pretense, fighting, forgery.

Interfering with an officer, larceny, leaving scene of accident, keeping house of prostitution, loitering, manslaughter, murder, operating gambling house, possession of burglar tools, rape, receiving and concealing stolen goods, refusing to pay taxi fare, resisting an officer, robbery, selling mortgaged property, swindling, trespassing, unlawful riding of trains, using vehicle without consent of owner, selling fireworks, violation of dog law, violation of stock law, violation of prohibition law, violation of revenue law, violation of sanitary law, violation of anti-horn law, and violation of taxi law.

168 On Duty

Today there are 168 policemen on active duty. There are 12 motorcycles, 10 patrol cars, four detective cars, and two patrol wagons subject to call at any time.

Mon. 1-6-47

On each of their three shifts police have three cars, six motorcycles, and one patrol wagon on duty for eight hours each. All these vehicles are equipped with radio communication to headquarters to facilitate any emergency that may arise.

The year 1947, from all indications, promises to be one of the most successful ones in the history of the department.

16 1946 rson

Calif. Veteran's New House Burned; Police Hold 2 Men

Daily Worker New York, N. Y. Thurs. 12-26-46

REDWOOD CITY, Cal., Dec. 25.—Police have arrested two men in connection with the Dec. 6 burning of the incompleted home of a Negro veteran. The men, John B. Arlotti, 40, and Harry R. Harkins, 23, were taken into custody late last night as the climax to a long period of investigation, according to district attorney Fred Wyckoff.

Both men live within a block of the ruins of the home which belonged to John Walker, 22-year-old former sailor. They denied they watched the flames destroy the house saying they were home asleep.

Walker, whose plight aroused civic and veteran groups to the extent that they posted a total of $2100 in rewards, was the recipient of several threatening letters ordering him to move out of the neighborhood.

Wyckoff said both Arlotti and Harkins had openly expressed their opposition to having Negroes living in the same neighborhood and they had even discussed means of preventing a Negro from moving into their locality.

Superior Judge Edward R. Brand's court. 12-7-46

2 Whites Held in Home Burning

The Afro-American

REDWOOD CITY, Calif.—Two white men, John B. Arlotti, 40, and Henry Harkins, 23, were held by police here, last week, on a charge of conspiracy for arson in the burning of the newly built home of a colored war veteran on Dec. 6. Baltimore, Md.

The home belonged to Joseph T. Walker, 21, a Navy veteran and the father of two small children. It was constructed with the aid of a GI loan, at a cost of $6,000. Its destruction was called by the sheriff's office "a clear case of arson." Sat. 1-4-47

Walker, who during the war participated in fighting at Palau and Okinawa, had continued his work on constructing the home despite having been threatened five times to give up the project.

Klan Behind Burning

He attributed these threats to the Ku Klux Klan, advising the sheriff that even after his home was burned, he received another threatening note, signed K.K.K.

Both the arson suspects, Arlotti and Harkins, live within a block of Walker's burned home, which is located in the Dumbarton Oaks section. San Mateo County authorities are holding the men.

Glass Eater Jailed In Jealous Violence Over Negro Lover

The Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla.

Sat 12-7-46

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — A former Mohammedan carnival performer who used to eat glass, razor blades, and thumbtacks, and push needles through his cheeks for dessert, is having his troubles there days.

As if being in the county lock-up for an arson charge isn't bad enough, Ali Mohammed Bey, 28, is now suffering from pains in the right abdomen. He wouldn't say if it was his former diet—or the present jail menu—that's causing his latest woes.

The trouble started, Ali says, when he allegedly discovered that Evelyn McKinley, Negro, with whom he had been living for 10 months, was "unfaithful." Ali had bought the furniture for the place, he says, and he wanted it back. Evelyn said no.

On Sept. 8, pretty upset by it all, Ali tried to kill himself by taking poison, but didn't quite make it. The next day, determined if he wasn't getting the furniture back, nobody would have it, he set fire to the place, according to charges which were heard in

16 1946

Arson

First To Get Complete Story From Elopus Walker About Fires

The Call Kansas City, Mo.
Fri. 12-13-46

CALL Reporters Get Full Information After Sheriffs, Police Officers, Daily Papers Fail; Here Are Full Facts of the 'Scoop'

Nobody was able to get the real story from Elopus Walker concerning the series of fires in north central Missouri until CALL reporters went to Trenton, Mo., Tuesday, Dec. 3, and "broke" the case.

Sheriffs, police officers, daily newspaper reporters, highway patrolmen and the prosecuting attorney had tried and failed to get Walker to tell the whole story in the arson cases.

It took the skill and persuasiveness of CALL reporters to get Walker to admit that he was not alone in committing arson but was hired to set property on fire at the rate of $100 per house or building.

Others Tried and Failed

The sheriff of Grundy county, R. Henry Smith, policemen, highway troopers and daily reporters had questioned Walker for days in an effort to find the motive for the arson crimes but none could get the real facts. Walker refused to give a logical motive for setting fire to eight or more structures.

He would talk freely to the other investigators up to a point. He told them how he had applied the torch and where, but he always changed the subject or evaded the question when it got to the point of telling WHY he did it.

There had to be a "why" to it. Walker is not a mentally deficient person. He is completely sane, has reasonable intelligence, though little formal education. His weak explanation of "just damned meanness" and that he got a "thrill" out of watching the fires did not ring true—even to the sheriff and police officers who arrested and questioned him. It did not make sense that a man, employed at $35 or more a week, would leave his Kansas City job at intervals, travel to north Missouri and burn down houses, business buildings, churches, etc., for no logical reason. He got only small change from looting the houses that he burned. Robbery was ruled out as the real motive.

No Logical Motive

Police always look for a logical motive in all crimes. Elopus Walker gave them no believable motive. Had the man been emotionally unbalanced, no motive would be necessary but being of rational mind, Elopus Walker puzzled officers of the law.

It remained for THE CALL to put the pieces of the puzzle together and to bring rhyme and reason into the case.

Sheriff Smith, in whose custody Walker has been since his arrest Saturday morning at Chillicothe, was warm in his praise of THE CALL reporters for "breaking" the case.

Praised By Sheriff

"You have done something that nobody else was able to do," the high-sheriff told John I. Johnson, ace reporter for THE CALL, who persuaded Walker to tell the whole story. Sheriff Smith said that he had spent hours trying to get the whole truth out of Walker.

The sheriff had a feeling that Walker was not alone in the crime. He suspected that he was trying to protect an accomplice. But the sheriff could not get Walker to talk.

Walker told THE CALL that he withheld the information about the man who hired him to burn down property because he was afraid that bodily harm might come to him if he involved the real perpetrators of the arson crimes.

If caught, the man who hired Walker to commit arson will be charged with being an "accessory before the fact." The FBI was brought into the case after THE CALL got the whole story from Walker.

From Outside State

The prisoner said that he believed the man who hired him came from outside the state—from somewhere out East. This makes it possible for the FBI to enter the case.

Walker said that the man who hired him was careful to keep his identity a secret. He would not tell his name nor give him one of his business cards. Walker said he told him that he was in the insurance business and that setting the fires in north Missouri would "help business."

Sheriff Smith said since the series of fires began in September the amount of insurance business has doubled in the north central Missouri area. Fri. 12-13-46

The man who hired Walker told him to operate only in the small towns within a 100-mile radius of Kansas City and to stay north of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad tracks.

Sheriff Smith believes that Walker is the scapegoat for a ring of arsonists which probably operates in various parts of the United States, picking up men off the street like Walker to do the actual "dirty work."

Terror Fires Are Blamed On Arsonist

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala. Mon. 12-2-46

Negro Admits Starting Blazes In Ten Towns; Liked To 'See 'Em Burn'

CHILLICOTHE, MO., Dec. 1.—(AP)—The midnight fear of small town dwellers in north Missouri was at an end today after capture of a burly 46-year-old Negro janitor who admitted to police he set fires in two towns—including his boyhood home—because he "liked to watch 'em burn."

The mystery of sudden, sweeping fires which caused a quarter million dollars damage and terrorized neighboring hamlets was solved with a signed statement by Elopus Walker, ex-convict of Kansas City, State Highway Patrol officers said.

The first of Walker's admitted pillaging excursions was at tiny Corder, Mo., his boyhood home, on Sept. 5. The others were in neighboring towns in the area.

Walker, who was a janitor at an apartment building in Kansas City and did odd jobs in the neighborhood, was charged with arson, burglary and larceny.

Explains It

Setting the fires was "just something that comes in a man's mind and he don't know what he is doing," the Negro told reporters following his confession to police after he was arrested on the highway near here yesterday morning.

Search for "a tall Negro" had been underway since the sixth in the series of fires—at Higbee, Mo. —when 14-year-old Ferda Sue Cooper told police she saw a "tall Negro with a heavy beard" ransacking her mother's purse while her mother was at the fire. During a number of the other fires, small items had been stolen.

Walker said it "made him feel

The Call Kansas City, Mo. Fri. 12-13-46

GETTING THE FACTS.—John I. Johnson, left, ace reporter for THE CALL, is shown getting the full story of the Missouri arson case from Elopus Walker in the Grundy county jail at Trenton, Mo. Johnson was successful in getting Walker to tell his motive in setting a fire to $250,000 worth of property in north central Missouri towns. Walker said that he was promised $100 by a white insurance agent for every building he burned down. Johnson got the real facts after sheriffs, police officers and daily newspapermen had failed to get Walker to talk beyond a certain point. 12-13-46

IT'S A CALL SCOOP

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

If we ran a daily instead of a weekly, THE CALL would have scooped the nation on the true story behind the Elopus Walker arson case. CALL reporters "broke" the case Tuesday, Dec., 3, in the Grundy county jail at Trenton, Mo. The daily papers printed on Wednesday what THE CALL reporters found out Tuesday. But being a weekly, THE CALL had to wait until Friday to break its own scoop. Elopus Walker talked freely only when THE CALL reporters questioned him. He withheld the whole story from daily paper reporters, from sheriffs, police officers, highway patrolmen and others who questioned him. But THE CALL's reporters persuaded him to talk and tell the whole truth. The full story appears on this page.

This is not the first time that THE CALL has "scooped" the nation on the "true story." In 1925, when a lynching occurred in Excelsior Springs, the daily papers said that the victim was guilty of rape. THE CALL's editor, C. A. Franklin, went to Excelsior to get the real facts. He found that rape was not the cause of the lynching. A group of rascally whites and rascally Negroes, involved in some shady deals including cattle stealing, had an argument over the "spoils" and the lynching followed. Fri. 12-13-46

It takes THE CALL to get the FACTS.

Man Confesses Setting Fires In 10 Towns

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

From Wire Dispatches.

Jefferson City, Mo., Nov. 30.—A mysterious wave of incendiary fires which had destroyed $250,000 worth of property in 10 Missouri towns was solved with the confession late today of a 46-

Colonel Waggoner said the estimated at $75,000 charges were filed 12 hours after Walker was picked up while hitchhiking north of Chillicothe and "I said to myself I'll never do this no more." Articles in Walker's possession Highway Patrol S. Poage said Walker told police buses from Kansas City, Mo. Poage said Walker told the patrol chief said, "definitely tie him with the fires" that have

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
Sept. 12-1-46
Articles Recovered.

Elopus Walker Says He Was Paid To Set Fires; Tells Story to THE CALL

The Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Hired by White Insurance Man to Burn Property in North Central Missouri; Was Supposed to Get $100 for Each Fire

Fri. - 12-13-46

By JOHN F. JOHNSON
A Member of THE CALL'S Staff

"I burned down buildings for money."

"I was to be paid $100 for every house or building I set afire in north central Missouri north of the tracks."

These were the astonishing statements made to me by Elopus Walker, confessed arsonist, in the Grundy county jail Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 3.

I had pleaded with Walker to tell the truth. I did not believe that he had told the whole truth to the sheriff, the police or to the daily paper reporters. It did not make sense to me that a Negro for no other reason than "damned meanness" would burn down other people's property. That was the only reason that he had given the others who had questioned him.

I talked to Walker for 15 minutes before he "opened up" with the truth. I begged him to let himself go and relieve his conscience if he was protecting somebody else. I told him that if anyone else was implicated in this case, if someone else had induced, ordered or suggested that he start the fires, that he should tell it. I told him that he would be helping himself if he told the truth. I told him that he was foolish if he took all the blame while some other person who was guilty went free.

Walker, tall, lanky, dark-complexioned, listened while I spoke. Sweat broke out over his face as he sat on his bunk. At first, he only nodded his head in agreement. Then he softly murmured, "You got the facts." Then, with his face soaking with perspiration, he told his story. Walker seemed glad to tell the truth at last. He talked freely and willingly. Sheriff R. Henry Smith, who was standing in front of the cell with me, another reporter and a photographer, said that Walker smiled in relief for the first time since he had been confined in the jail.

12-13-46

Walker's Confession

"I was hired by a man who said he was an insurance agent," Walker began. "He paid me $50 before I ever left Kansas City for the first time. He told me I would get $100 for every house I 'lighted'. I had already collected $250 for the buildings burned and was on my way back to Kansas City Saturday to collect $250 more when I was picked up by the Chillicothe police. I had just come from Loredo where I burned three business buildings, a vacant house and the Christian church."

Sheriff Smith, who had tried in vain to get Walker to tell the truth, was elated by the new turn in the case and that the prisoner decided to give the whole story. "We all knew that there was more behind it than Elopus had told us" said Sheriff Smith, but we couldn't get him to tell us. You have done something that nobody else has done, something that may help Elopus."

The sheriff, city police, state highway patrolmen, investigators, daily newspapermen, the prosecuting attorney—all had questioned Walker repeatedly, seeking the motive for the fires. But Walker had persistently maintained that there was no motive other than "damned meaness, I guess."

Walker said that he was standing on a corner near 12th and Baltimore when he was approached by a small, well-dressed white man who offered to let him make some money. The job was easy and paid well. In fact just to accept the work would immediately make Elopus $50 richer. Elopus said he thought about the offer, but wanted to hear more about the job.

Agreed To Bribe

The man, said Walker, had a roll of bills in his hand, he peeled off a 50 dollar bill and stood waiting for my answer.

"All you need to do is just burn down a few light buildings, come back and collect $100 for every one you burn. That's mighty easy money," his prospective employer said, according to Elopus.

"Just a little gas or oil syphoned from a car or can, a lighted match, a get-away and that is all there is to it," Elopus quoted the man as saying.

Walker said he finally agreed, accepted $50 and went on to his home at 3808 Washington St. It had been arranged that Walker need only stand around near 12th and Baltimore from 10 a.m. to noon, or from noon to 2 p.m. and the dapper-looking employer would come to him and pay him off. Walker's successful burnings were to be checked by stories of fires in the newspapers.

"I tried to find out more about the man but I couldn't," said Walker. "Once or twice I tried to trail him, but always lost him in a crowd. The last time I trailed him from across the street as he went up and down streets, but he went into a building and got away from me."

Instructed On Procedure

Walker said he saw the man about four times in downtown Kansas City. He was paid $50 at each of the meetings, $100 at another and $50 the last time he saw the man. Walker said his employer was behind in payments before he went to Loredo but was to have made it up last Saturday.

According to Walker, his steel-grey-suited, dark-grey-hatted employer instructed him to burn only light buildings—evidently small structures—and told him to get a small can or jar, syphon a bit of gas or oil, pour it on the outside of buildings, light it and run. This seems to have been his method throughout.

Walker was arrested while walking in Chillicothe. Upon coming there from Loredo, he had walked about unnoticed, obtained a drink at a filling station and otherwise seemed secure, although police and citizens had been told to be on watch for a tall, strong Negro. He tells it this way:

"I walked by several cruisers with state patrolmen in them. The flat-foots paid no attention to me. The city officers were leaning up against posts on the corners. They never noticed me. I got my drink of water and was aiming to catch a train or bus back to Kansas City. And if it hadn't been for that 16 or 17-year-old milk truck driver I never would have been arrested."

Identified By Boy

Walker said he was on his way to the station when he heard the milk-boy say to the officers: "There he is; that's your man."

"The cruiser pulled up," said Walker, "and one of the officers leaned out and said 'Where you going, boy.'

"I told them I wanted to get something to eat," said Walker. "They told me to get in the car and go with them. I finally landed here in jail."

Previous to his arrest, Walker had been employed by Mrs. O. C. Holdeman, owner of a duplex at 3808 Washington. Until September, he had been a more or less dependable worker. His lack of interest in his small salaried job became evident late in September, after he said he met the stranger. Before this habits had been somewhat constant. But after September—after the fires started—Walker's interest in the janitor job waned. Mrs. Holdeman threatened to discharge him.

Miss Billie Baker, tenant at the Holdeman address, said she noticed a change in him about September. He became irregular in his hours, being gone for long periods.

L. K. Carnahan, proprietor of a liquor store at 39th and Broadway said Walker cashed his checks at the liquor store, that he always bought cigars and cigarettes, but never any liquor. His life habits changed after September.

Well Mannered

At the time of his arrest, a billfold containing a $5 bill and seven $1 bills was found on his person. This billfold was identified as that belonging in one of the homes he had robbed. When asked why he kept the billfold, Walker unconsciously ran his hand over his left rear pocket and said: "I don't know. I just plum forgot about keeping that thing."

Walker does not appear to be mentally ill. He has a good memory. He can tell over and over the same story with little or no change. He remembers dates well and can tell what he was doing and where he was at any time.

He is quiet, mild-mannered and is easy to get along with. Sheriff Smith confirmed this by saying he would not be afraid to have him walk around loose in the combination house and jail.

Some little apprehension of trouble bothered the sheriff. He said that the people of Laredo were 'sore', and they had talked pretty rough to Walker in the jail. However, he did not believe the citizens would attempt to do anything drastic.

Beating Suggested

At no time, said Walker, was he beaten or mistreated by any officer. He said that one of the patrolmen had suggested that he ought to be dressed down, but that no one had even threatened to beat him. The patrolman had suggested the beating before Sheriff Smith had taken him to the county jail. Since being there Walker said that the sheriff had treated him all right.

One of the reporters asked Walker whether he intended telling this story to anyone. Walker said that he had not intended to tell it, that he would have gone on to the penitentiary with his first story. He said he was afraid of being killed if he told, and implied that he thought there were more men interested in the house-burning than the one who had hired him.

Fires were started by an arsonist in eight North Central Missouri towns beginning with Sept. 28 at Wakenda, Mo. The others: Nov. 5, Brunswick storage building burned; Nov. 13 Gilliam, Mo. Baptist church, two commercial garages and two homes; Nov. 14 Brunswick, Mo., implement building; Nov. 15 Higbee, Mo., three business houses and the city hall; Nov. 17 Higginsville—Emanuel Lutheran church damaged; Nov. 21, Mayview, Mo., lumber yard private home; Nov. 29, Laredo, three business buildings, a vacant house and the Christian church.

Walker maintains that the Higginsville fire was not caused by him. He said he only saw the building burn.

ELOPUS WALKER . . . VICTIM OF NEGLECT!

By A. FRANKLIN

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

Nobody is gainer by the acts of Elopus Walker, the poor Negro who went about Missouri burning buildings for a price. Quite the contrary, the losses have been considerable in dollars and cents and even more in the fear and anxieties aroused. It is timely to consider what makes persons behave like Elopus Walker.

Fri 12-13-46

Like all his people, Elopus Walker was born without hope, brought up in ignorance and apprenticed to adversity. What has been done to him is a denial of the high resolves expressed when Americans set out to secure "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Religion, industry and even democracy have joined in stripping Elopus and his people to the bone, though it is admitted that all men are so inter-related and interdependent that the highest is chained down to the lowest. Taken in time, Elopus might have developed into a George Washington Carver. Many another who started in the rear rank has advanced to the front rank, but somebody had to care before that could happen.

Nobody cared for Elopus. Religion did not care. It sends missionaries to the "heathens" abroad but lets the poor black man at home wallow in ignorance, hopelessness and disease. The church to which he could go had little to offer except on the other side of Jordan. No guidance in practical living! No lovely architecture to inspire him to improve his home surroundings! No outstanding successes among the members to let him see what he could become! Failure is the Negro's portion, according to Christians as well as non-Christians.

Industry offers no opportunity for Elopus. It gives him pound for pound for his money but doesn't let him earn like other men. Even the labor side of industry which cries to high heaven for justice means justice for white workers—not for Elopus. No wonder when somebody offered him $100 to burn a house, he was tempted.

Even self-interest in the United States pre-supposes advantage! Not a thought of the inevitable consequences of neglecting the submerged one-tenth. A big business man of Kansas City, visiting a relative in Tennessee who employs Negro labor, was told that the workers were paid only $10 a week. The Kansas Citian asked, "How do they live?" The relative answered, "I pay them only $10 a week because they steal so much," to which the Kansas Citian replied, "How do you expect them not to steal when you pay them so little?"

Elopus at $10 a week is the reverse side of "Tobacco Road" and the Ku Klux Klan. Elopus at a living wage becomes a supporter of successful business.

16 1946

Film Stars' Cuban Pal Unmasked in Hollywood

Charles J. Edwards, center, who posed for two years as a Cuban and hobnobbed with Hollywood stars, is shown here at the height of his career with Van Johnson, left, and Victor Mature. Girl in front is Lina Romay. Edwards, who is 28, was arrested in Los Angeles last week on charges of forgery, burglary and theft of public records, and it was then that it became known he was not the attorney he represented himself to be.

Hoax of Bar and Film Stars Laid to Man Held In Thefts

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky. Thurs. 10-31-46

Los Angeles, Oct. 30 (AP)—A soft-spoken young man who is alleged by district attorney's investigators to have hoaxed the State bar, the Los Angeles County sheriff's office, several movie stars, and numerous organizations was arraigned in Municipal Court today on charges of forgery, theft of Police Department Los Angeles City Hall.

Listed as Charles Joseph Edwards, Jr., 28, he is charged with having rifled police records in 1945, with burglarizing the City Hall two weeks later and stealing Superior Court records, and with the theft of Municipal Court records—all dealing with investigations of Charles Joseph Edwards.

Pictured With Film Stars.

The forgery charge filed today is based on the alleged forgery in 1945 of a letter, signed by the clerk of the California State Supreme Court and advising members of the bar that Charles J. Edwards, Jr., was admitted to the practice of law in 1926 on license from New York State.

Jess Klein, district attorney's investigator, declared Edwards gained admission to the bar by substituting his name for that of another man.

In his personal effects officers found photographs showing Edwards with Van Johnson, Victor Mature, Carmen Miranda, and Lina Romay. Another picture depicted Edwards being sworn by U. S. District Judge Leon Yankwich to practice in the Federal Court, with Jerry Giesler, widely known criminal lawyer, as his sponsor. Giesler told reporters Edwards had been recommended to him by persons he deemed reputable.

Claims Honorary Degree.

Edwards said he was admitted to the New York bar in 1943 and also to those of Texas and Illinois. He said he had been given an honorary degree of doctor of laws by the American Law Institute at Chicago for his work on behalf of youth.

He served as a deputy sheriff here in 1942 and 1943. His birth certificate shows he is a white person born in New Orleans. He was booked as a Negro, although he said he is a Cuban.

Jekyll-Hyde Role Played by 'Cuban'

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Movieland's Friend Ends Two-Year Hoax

POSED AS LAWYER

Masquerade Attributed to Tumor on Brain

By PAUL DAVIS

LOS ANGELES—Unmasked as "the most fabulous masquerader of all time," Charles (Chuck) J. Edwards, 27, was arraigned in Federal Court late on Oct. 31 on a charge of impersonating an FBI agent and his case continued until Nov. 12.

Considered the greatest Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde of this century Edwards, since his arrest on Oct. 30, has been revealed as a master impersonator.

The friend of movie celebrities, legal and police authorities, he was booked first as a Cuban, then as white and finally as colored when he proved his race conclusively despite a "white" on his birth certificate.

Started Out as 'Sheriff'

Among other things, he has posed as:

DEPUTY SHERIFF—As such, he stole the file on his conviction for forging a $223 check and serving 90 days in 1940.

POLICE CAPTAIN—Borrowing the badge from a friend whose father had retired, he got his arrest record out of the police department.

LAWYER — Learning that a Charles H. Edwards had been admitted to practice law in California on a transfer from Idaho, he obtained a letter to that effect and substituted his name for that of the original, who had died in 1936.

GOVERNMENT CAMERAMAN—As such, he obtained gasoline for 1500 miles on the basis of being a representative of the Government's Department of Motion Picture Productions.

Also Posed as Vet

ARMY CAPTAIN—At the time of his arrest, an Army discharge paper was found on him although he did not serve in the Army. As a veteran, it is said, Edwards appealed for and received a $1000 tax exemption.

DRAFT BOARD MEMBER — Also found was a letter from Gov. Earl Warren of California complimenting him for his service during the war.

The Afro-American

Evading the draft by stating that he was registered with a board other than that to which he was assigned, he further tricked the board by sending it a postcard saying that Charles J. Edwards Jr. had died from appendicitis in Hawaii and was marked off as "deceased."

Was About to Be Freed

Originally held for stealing public records, burglary and forgery, he was about to be freed on $2,500 bail posted in cash by his mother, Mrs. Margaret Edwards, when the FBI ordered him held.

Admitted to law practice in Federal Court here in January, 1945, he was sponsored by Jerry Giesler, internationaly famous trial lawyer, and sworn in by Judge Leon R. Yankwich. Giesler explained that Edwards had come to him highly recommended by Charlotta Bass, editor of the Los Angeles Eagle, and that his admission to the State Bar had been checked.

Jealousy Held Motive

At the same time Edwards had registered as a freshman in a law course at Loyala University, but dropped out after one semester.

Loyola is one of the many universities from which he has transcripts of his record — they included Xavier University in New Orleans, the University of Hawaii, Boston University and other Eastern universities.

Some believe that a Loyola College law student, who had known him in school, saw his name listed among State Bar members and inquired of the group and thus started his downfall. Others suspect a lawyer, angry because he could not move in the same top-notch circles that Edwards did, finally reported him to authorities.

Others Believed Aware

There is no record of Edwards's actually having repersented clients in court, but he conferred and advised on many cases, especially dealing with labor relations.

He had his office in the building with other colored lawyers at 4066 S. Central Ave. Although many colored lawyers were aware of his status, it is believed that they let him continue just to see how far he could advance.

He also associated with all prominent persons, including movie celebrities, took part in ship launchings and other civic events, and applied for positions in both the Federal and district attorney's offices.

Baltimore, Md.

Photgraphed With Stars

In his activities Edwards worked particularly for interracial unity. It is alleged that he worked with Orson Wells, with Bette Davis in the Hollywood Canteen activities and with Bing Crosby in connection with the singer's radio program.

Sat. 11-9-46

In his personal effects were picture showing him with Carmen Miranda, Victor Mature, Van Johnson, Sabu, Carey McWilliams, Jery Giesler, famed attorney, and others.

On his person at the time he was arrested were membership cards in the Ku Klux Klan, the Communist Party, the Gerald L. K. Smith organization, Knights of Columbus and B'nai B'rith and high school report cards in which F grades had been changed to A's.

In addition, a $2,000 wardrobe of top hat, tails, cane, etc., was uncovered in a Hollywood apartment of Edwards.

He allegedly rented the $2,000 wardrobe and charged the $47-a-wek bill to Warner Bros. Studio one year ago, which refused payment. The clothing store recovered the elaborate evening clothing and jewelry amounting to $2,000 last week.

In 1943 he was given the Distinguisher Service Award of the National Youth Organizations of America for outstanding leadership among young people at the Beverly Hills Coun- ultra-exclusive ry Club with Carey McWilliams ing present on the platform. Town Jumps on Bandwagon By the time of his arraignment on Wednesday morning, the whole town had jumped onto Edwards's bandwagon, he was the talk of the town and nearly everyone ex-

pressed the hope that the whole thing would be forgotten and the that Edwards is cally responsible.

Treated for Brain Tumor

His counsel, Crispus A. Wright, pointed out that he would base his defonation charge, examination and motives and tendencies are good, but he lacks gumption to follow the brain."

"Dreamer" Not Concerned

It gave Edwards a "dreamer's attitude" toward life, Dr. Moore reported — "always wanting to do great things, but never starting the climb from the bottom. His

Insisting that "this is all a nefarious political plot on the part of prominent Republicans," he adds. "They haven't got a thing on me. All this trouble will pass away right after the election."

Renounced by Smith

Gerald L. K. Smith, in a public statement, pointed out that the man never did belong to his group and that he renounced him, brand ed him a faker, and instructed Edwards participated, he remains undistubed.

In his diagnosis after Edwards's cameraman impar- reported — "Neurological examination and pressure — irrita- While this and other charges and statement, reveals the fact that a tumor mass situ- cases are being investigated to find in the substance of out the many activities into which

the sergeant-at-arms of the meeting to throw him out.

But he was unable to explain away a photograph which Edwards had in his possession showing a group which included Smith himself, Mrs. Smith, Meade McClanahan, ex-city councilman, and Edwards.

Edwards admits that he attended KKK meetings in the Los Angeles area, and has agreed to ride with Walter J. Sullivan, deputy of the District Attorney's office in charge of KKK activities, and point out meeting sports, as well as individuals.

Honored for Youth Work

Edwards was given an honorary degree of laws by the American degree of doctor of laws by the American Law Institute at Chicago for his work in the youth field, he pointed out. "I also wrote a book," he remarked. "It was 'How Not to Become a Delinquent.'"

Joining organizations was easy for him. He joined the Communists to see how they operated and the Klan and Smith group in order to obtain information on their activities to use in combating them.

In 1937 he interviewed Adolph Hitler when he went to Germany with the World Conference of Christian Youth and was given permission by the Nazi Fuehrer to inspect all youth training camps and later received the distinguished youth award from President Roosevelt.

Editor Denies Role

In a front-page public statement in her Oct. 31 issue of her weekly Charlotta A. Bass, editor-publisher of the California Eagle, emphatically denied that she ever recommended Charles Edwards for admission to the State Bar.

"In conclusion," she points out "I know Charles Edwards to be a mentally sick person and over a period of years have tried to help him, as I have tried to help many other youngsters. However, I have no intention of accepting responsibility for the mistakes of others."

Calif. Hoaxer Held for Trial

The Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

LOS ANGELES. — The legend concerning Charles J. Edwards Jr. 28, continued to grow last week when the colorful defendant who fooled actors, politicians and lawyers with his masquerade as a socially-minded attorney was ordered held on a forgery charge and four other counts for trial in Superior Court on Nov. 29.

Presiding judges were changed on the second day of the hearing and Edwards appeared before Municipal Judge Edwin L. Jefferson (brother of Bernard Jefferson recent Washington, D.C., OPA lawyer), the only colored jurist on any court bench anywhere in the West. *Sat. 11-23-46*

A capacity audience, including many lawyers and judges, attended the hearings, although Jerry Giesler, attorney, who had been persuaded to sponsor Edwards in Federal Court, was absent.

Films Star Testify

Film stars such as Van Johnson, Carmen Miranda, Victor Mature and others with whom he hobnobbed and political lights with whom he associated as he passed for a Cuban were on hand.

All of the witnesses admitted having been duped one or more times by Edward's shrewd operations. The most embarrassed of these was the representative of the California State Bar Association who admitted an error on his part.

Gerald Weil, secretary of the bar association, acknowledged, that he had passed on and approved Edward's application for admission to the bar.

Pilfered Records

Edwards took a letter from the files of the Supreme Court here, concerning the admission to the Idaho bar in 1916 of one "Charles D. Edwards." *Afro-American*

He "doctored" the letter to make it correspond to his initials, submitted the results to Weil, and, on payment of $59, was admitted as a member in good standing of the California Bar. (The State bar consistently fails over three-fourths of its candidates.)

Poised and dressed in a gray sports suit, young Edwards was very affable during the long drawn out hearings, and smiled and nodded at acquaintances in the audience. *Baltimore, Md.*

Lawyer Testifies

H. Leonard Richardson, colored lawyer, who came here three years ago from Oakland, Calif., testified that Edwards had worked for him in a legal capacity.

When he went to Edwards's home at the latter's request following rumors that Edwards had never passed the bar, Richardson said Edwards showed him a membership in the Hollywood Bar Association. Richardson told the court: *Sat. 11-23-46*

"That made me think Edwards was a better man than I am since I have not been, nor has any other colored lawyer ever been a member of that bar association, or any bar association in the State of California."

Check Legal Moves

There was a noticable quietness and pause in the courtroom as Richardson testified. He added:

"Furthermore, I found him to be a personable young man. I liked him then, and I like him now."

Richardson denied that he had ever sent Edwards to appear in court, but that the defendant had arranged continuances and filed documents. The records are being checked to make sure that such was the extent of Edwards's legal activities in the courts.

Judge Tags Defendant

Later, Superior Judge Frank G. Swain was called to identify Edwards as a man he sentenced for forgery in 1940. An alleged statement by Edwards at the time of his arrest was read the jury by Jess Klein, investigator for the district attorney.

It included admission by Edwards that:

He posed as a police captain to extract his record from police files; removed and burned Superior Court records concerning his plea of guilty of forgery of a $233 check, for which he received a 90-day sentence; and, that he removed records concerning a rent suit from Municipal Court files.

Crispus A. Wright, attorney for Edwards, contended that the State had not proved him guilty of anything, despite evidence offered by Deputy District Attorney Edward McLarty. Judge Jefferson, however, ordered Edwards held for trial.

Judge lops off Edwards' freedom

Tribune

Los Angeles, Calif

Sat. 11-30-46

Sharpy Charles Edwards, who is quarterbacking his own defense, according to reports, was no better off than Tom Turkey this week—he stuck his neck out and—wham!

Jailed again Monday after less than a week of freedom, on bail raised by his mother, Edwards appeared in Judge William R. McKay's courtroom Wednesday, asking, through his newest lawyer, David Knapp, that his bail of $2500 be reduced.

Not only did Judge McKay refuse to reduce it, but "in view of the particular and peculiar circumstances that surround the crime with which Edwards is charged", upped it to $10,000. He had previously sent Edwards back to jail after ruling the self-confessed "con-man" should not be on the street when the possibility of insanity exists. *Tribune*

Throwing caution to the winds Wednesday, Knapp, following the raise in bail, withdrew his client's "not guilty by reason of insanity" plea, and decided to fight it out solely on a claim of "not guilty". Edwards comes to trial Jan. 8 on charges of burglary, forgery and theft of public records. Preceding the trial, he will be examined carefully by state psychiatrists. Federal charges of illegally wearing a discharge button and of impersonating an FBI officer will haul him back into court after the state trial. *Los Angeles, Calif.*

Knapp succeeds two Negro lawyers as Edwards' defense counsel. First was Crispus Wright; second, Walter L. Gordon, Jr. Gordon said he holds a signed retainer slip from Edwards, but indicated he would not push for his right to represent the slippery young man. *Sat. 11-30-46*

Edwards no trouble in the lockup

What is Charles Edwards like in jail?

Just like any other prisoner, according to county jail officials this week; "he gets along".

Jailers have no records of Edwards being troublesome, they said, nor has he been able to talk any special considerations out of the lockup staff.

Allowed two visitors, outside his lawyer, weekly, Edwards' usual guest is his mother.

Thanksgiving day, Edwards, along with other prisoners, enjoyed a special dinner of roast pork, potatoes, peas and carrots, combination salad, iced doughnut, coffee and milk. No visitors were allowed.

Hollywood Hoaxer 'Pulls Leg' of DA

The Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

By PAUL DAVIS

LOS ANGELES—Continuing to crash the headlines, Charles J. Edwards Jr., Hollywood hoaxer pulled still another hoax as he rests in Los Angeles County jail, while his preliminary hearing continues in Municipal Court this week. *Sat. 11-16-46*

Edwards had the District Attorney's office completely upset by claiming that he had obtained a full confession from Tony Adams, who is under indictment for the slaying of California Highway Patrolman Steve Sodel.

Chats with Suspect

Adams and Edwards were to appear in Municipal Court—Edwards for three counts of stealing public records and burglary and Adams for murder.

While together for a few minutes in the jail "bull pen," the two engaged in a chat.

Edwards immediately told authorities, who had gotten nothing from Adams in New York, where they had gone to pick him up, that he had wrung some damaging admissions from Adams relative to the murder.

Had Learned Nothing

It was soon discovered, however, that Edwards knew only what had already appeared in the local papers about the Sodel case.

But for a few minutes the entire District Attorney's office was upset and eager about a possible full confession obtained by Edwards. *The Afro-American*

To Plead Insanity

Edwards's hearing was postponed for several days at the request of the District Attorney's office and Crispus Wright and Samuel Knapp, defense attorney's, in order that more witnesses might be summoned.

The attorneys are seeking a psychiatric examination for their client and will base the defense on the grounds of insanity.

Charges Multiply

Folowing charges in Municipal Court, which will be continued, Edwards will appear next week before Federal authorities to answer charges of illegally possessing an FBI identification card and wearing an honorably discharged veteran's button. *Baltimore, Md.*

With investigation under way from a dozen different sources, it was discovered this week that Edwards also put another one over on the "smart folks."

Files show that he was admitted to practice before the Louisiana State Supreme Court, in addition to the California Bar, and many new names were being added to his "running mates."

Counts Celebrities 'Pals'

The list already includes Carmen Miranda, Jerry Geisler, California's top criminal lawyer; Van Johnson, Bing Crosby, Orson Welles, Carey McWilliams, Gerald L. K. Smith, and Meade McClanaham, city councilman.

From his cell, the slick-haired, [illegible] attribute his trouble to the machinations [illegible] and along Central Ave., the odds are being placed that Edwards will win his battle in both courts.

Trial Attracts Crowd

Edwards is also displaying a letter from Governor Warren of California, which apologizes for being absent from his office when Attorney Edwards called on him recently. *Sat. 11-16-46*

The court rooms continue to remain crowded, with the public and the press waiting for any new and startling developments.

Charles Edwards is insane again

Tribune

Los Angeles, Calif.

On again, off again Charles J. Edwards decided Tuesday that he must have been insane when he posed as a lawyer and cut a wide swath through Los Angeles legal circles.

Edwards, facing charges of burglary, forgery and theft of public records, reversed himself in Superior court and changed his plea of "not guilty" back to his original plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity." *Sat. 12-14-46*

The plea came after Edwards informed superior court Judge Edward R. Brand that he had retained Walter Gordon as his attorney and denied that he had ever hired Daniel Knapp white. Knapp was supposed to have taken over from Crispus Wright.

Edwards is in County jail, awaiting trial Jan. 8.

Dupes Los Angeles Two Years; Fake Lawyer Declared Insane

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 12-14-46

LOS ANGELES—Charles Edwards, the man who outsmarted some of the best legal minds in this state and a portion of the nation for two years while posing as a respected member of the bar, has in the end, been adjudged a person incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong.

The court findings handed down here last week by Superior Court Judge William McKay, say in effect that Edwards is without proper control of his mental faculties.

Edwards, styled "super duper" by local daily papers, enjoyed remarkable escapades during his two years of masquerading. During that time he was admitted to practice before a federal court here and in New Orleans, and later in the California courts.

Atty. Walter L. Gordon Jr., who was drafted to represent Edwards, submitted to the state's contentions but, pleaded that his client was not responsible because of a mental ailment resulting from a brain tumor. The jurist recommended the once popular Los Angeles figure to a state institution.

Orleanians Recall Being Taken In By Nation's No. 1 Faker, Charles Edwards

The Louisiana Weekly New Orleans, La.

Sat. 11-16-46

By "SCOOP" JONES

New Orleans, long the happy hunting grounds for many out-of-town big shot impersonators, found last week that it's face was also red along with Los Angeles, Calif., because smooth talking, ingenious masquerador of a Big Shot, Charles J. Edwards, like Kilroy, had been here too.

Charles (Chuck) Edwards is the lad, who is now held in L. A. on charges by the state and federal governments, has been exposed as a lawyer-fake, a youth leader without an organization and a smooth operating impersonator of a big shot, who hobnobbed with the cream of California citizenry, which include famed Movie Stars as Van Johnson, Victor Mature and Carmen Miranda and such legal brains as California's noted Jerry Geisler. He was also exposed as having posed as an Army Captain, and FBI agent, Police Captain, Deputy Sheriff, Draft Board Member and Government Cameraman.

Edwards also stands a possibility of facing a charge here for impersonating a federal officer. He came to New Orleans in the ripe season when pickings are good for supposed-to-be Big Shots. . . The Carnival Season. Posing as a lawyer from L. A. he smoothly sucked in many here in legal, civic and social circles and was feted in several prominent homes of the city. He attended Carnival balls here in full dress and cape.

His most outstanding inveigling here was an attempt to be admitted to the federal bar. He was introduced to the bar by one of the city's outstanding white attorneys, Robert J. Milling, Jr., and was supported by other legal brains. He was, in fact, accepted to practice here on the basis of his legal background (now found to be non-existing) and was recalled by District Judge Adrian J. Caillouet, after a conference with Attorney Milling and two assistant U. S. attorneys.

With applications filed for Edwards' admission to the bar were letters of recommendations from several leading Negro citizens, which included W. H. Mitchell, executive secretary of the YMCA; Rev. Thomas Primm, pastor of Union Bethel African Methodist Church; Mrs. Florestine Collins, of Collins Studio; Ida Nance Givens, of Baton Rouge; the late lawyer, Joseph A. Thornton, and lawyer A. P. Tureaud.

Lawyer Tureaud revealed this week that Edwards had come to him and Lawyer Thornton (before the latter's death) asking that they recommend him for admission to the federal bar. In this Attorney Tureaud said they refused, but did explain to him the procedure of being admitted. In the course of the discussion, Edward was shown file copies of letters of recommendation sent in behalf of Thurgood Marshall when action was being instituted for the latter's admission to practice here. Edwards asked could he borrow the file long enough to type up samples copies of the letters so that he would know how to form his own. He typed the letters in their office and returned their file. At least that is what was thought to heve been done, until this week when it was revealed that both lawyers Thureaud and Thornton were supposed to have recommended his admission to the bar. Lawyer Thornton discovered that when he checked federal court record this week, Edwards had swiped their letters of recommendation from the file, he had erased the dates and Thurgood Marshall's name, substituted new dates and his own name.

Louisiana Weekly New Orleans, La. Sat 11-16-46

Edward's smoothness of the light fingers was also revealed in his California exploits posing a Deputy Sheriff he stole the file on his own conviction for forging a check for $223. and serving 90 days in 1940; as a fake Police Captian (badge borrowed from a friend whose father was retired) he swiped his arrest record. To become a lawyer, he learned that a Charles G. Edwards had been admitted to practice law in California on a transger from Idaho, he obtained a letter to that effect, substituting his name for that of the original, who had died in 1936, Sat 11-16-46 thus became admitted to the California Bar Assocaition. As a jive Government Camerman, he obtained gasoline for 1500 miles on the basis of being a representative of the Government Department of Motion Pictures Productions. At the time of his arrest, an army discharge paper was found on him although he did not serve in the Army. As a veteran, if is said, Edwards appealed for and received a $1000 tax exemption. Also found among Edwards

guilty to charges of burglary, forgery, and theft of public records, due to insanity. Sat. 12-7-46

The judge set Edwards's trial for Jan. 8 and said that he did not want him on the street when a possibility of insanity existed. Continuing his escapade, Edwards, while on the street on bail had ditched his first counsel, Crispus A. Wright, and made the public statement that he would defend himself. Sat 12-7-46 Afro-American

At trial time he appeared in court with two counsel, Daniel Knapp, white, and Walter L. Gordon Jr., of Central Avenue. Earlier in the week, Edwards had appeared before a Federal grand jury and was bound over for trial on Federal charges on Dec. 23.

Coast Hoaxer Back in Jail

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

LOS ANGELES—Charles J. Edwards, the California "hoaxer," who was out on $500 bail, was ordered back to jail on Nov. 25 by Superior Judge W. R. McKay, after Edwards had pleaded not

RALPH McGILL

There Is a River of Crime

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 8-14-46

There is a river of crime that flows through our cities, towns and countryside . . . through our lives.

It is never-ceasing. It flows day and night.

Peace officers and court officials know it well.

Staid citizens summoned to grand jury service are dismayed, alarmed and shocked by the constant pressure of it.

In this ugly river are many monstrous objects. There are girls, themselves hardly more than children, with child by their own father. There are mothers who assist in the incestuous seduction of their daughters. There are parents who push their children into prostitution and thievery. There is cruel and bloody murder, rape, robbery, both petty and large, mean and bold in conception and execution.

Although this river flows endlessly, its horror being constant, it attracts little attention. It is only when it is a bit more turbulent than usual, tossing up on its evil banks some unusual horror, that the public becomes shocked into temporary concern. But even during the days of concern the river flows on, undiminished.

Law, the only weapon of society, struggles with it.

Difference Georgia's recent lynching has caused a natural, defensive reaction. Some persons ask why it is any worse than murders in Chicago, New York or other regions of the nation. Some want to know why the newspapers and radio commentators do not become equally opposed to such crimes. Still others, revealing themselves unknowingly, ask why Negro crime does not arouse as much comment. All this serves to illustrate how wide a gulf there is between the crime of lynching and the crime of murder and assault.

Certainly all crime is horrible and evil. Assuredly all murder and assaults demand the full penalty of the law. But note that juries often find, in seeking justice, mitigating circumstances. The law itself requires the search for a motive; is interested that premeditation be proved; searches for the intent.

Only the thoughtless will argue that all crime is crime and the Georgia lynchings no different from a gangster killing in Chicago or a murder in Los Angeles.

The thoughtful citizen will recognize at once that when a crime of murder or violence is committed, the law begins to act. Police officers hunt out the suspects. A grand jury hears the evidence and, if it is sufficient, indicts. A jury is selected. Witnesses are called. The case is heard. The verdict is rendered. The guilty are properly sentenced to die or to go to prison.

Lynchings grow out of different motives. The law is not in operation. It is defied. There is no question about premeditation and intent. They always are premeditated. The intent is to defy the law and to kill. The intent is to thwart justice, not obtain it. Grand juries, trial juries, courts, the whole system of law and order by which society lives, is ignored and weakened.

Murder of gangsters by gangsters for muscling in on rival bootleg territories, narcotic rings; sex crimes by perverts and unbalanced minds such as recently horrified Chicago and the nation—all these come under the heading of crime for which the law and the courts are provided with a code and approved measures. There is an obvious, and vast, difference between their horror and the horror of lynchings.

Penalty Students of criminology, psychologists, grand juries, judges, and other interested persons and organizations, have learned that crime by whatever persons must bear the exact burden of the law lest there be bred a disrespect for law.

The percentage of Negro crime everywhere is high. There are several reasons for it. One of the regional reasons is that too many juries and judges persist in regarding it as "just another Negro crime or killing." Grand juries everywhere in the South frequently have called attention to the fact this creates less fear and respect for the law. The full penalty of the law should apply to these crimes as well as to others.

In denouncing all crime as horrible, harmful and reprehensible; in asking the full penalty, even the death penalty if the law provides it and the guilt is found, we nevertheless cannot ignore the false argument that they are in the same category as lynchings. One strikes at individuals and the machinery of the law becomes active. The other strikes at a whole society and its foundation of law and order. The machinery of the law is wrecked and broken and man's plan for governing and disciplining himself is defied.

Let us not be led into defending either.

CRIMINAL SESSION BEGINS IN HARNETT

Judge Burgwyn Cites Causes of World Strife in Charge to Grand Jury

Lillington, Sept. 2. — Superior Court Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn of Woodland, pleading for tolerance at the opening of the September criminal term of court this morning, warned that "unless we have peace among ourselves, we cannot expect world peace."

Judge Burgwyn recalled that a year ago in his charge to the grand jury "we thought that we would have peace, but as yet that has not come from the sense of quietude of heart and mind. Even among our own people," he said, "well meaning, but perhaps misguided people, are creating strife."

The jurist recalled the recent lynchings in Georgia and declared that "the state will be resting under a cloud that can never be removed. That sort of thing ought not to exist—mobs aren't composed of brave men, they are composed of cowards who are afraid to come out in the open. Not one single member of that mob has been apprehended and tried and probably never will be."

Class Against Class.

Pointing to present-day strife, Judge Burgwyn declared that people are seeking "to array class against class, labor against labor, Gentile against Jew, race against race, and Protestants against Catholics. The nation was founded on the basis of freedom," declared the judge, "but we have forgotten the teachings of the Man of Galilee. Upon Jesus Christ's teaching depends the salvation of the world." He said there are those who are trying to "array us against the nation of Moses, the nation of the Disciples, and the nation of Jesus Christ Himself." He also said that there were forces who opposed the Catholic faith, a faith which "kept the Bible for 1300 years before other religions sprung up."

He paid tribute of St. Francis, St. Thomas Aquimas, St. Augustine and St. Helene, and declared that "James Cardinal Gibbons was one of America's best-loved citizens." He also praised the Negro race for the progress they have made since slavery, but cautioned them "not to be unmindful that the white people had largely helped them to be able to progress."

Talk on Rape.

Judge Burgwyn instructed the grand jurors to inspect the jail, road camps, school buses and other county facilities. He also dwelt briefly on the crime of rape, admonishing them that "it makes no difference as to a woman's character. Some people think a woman has to be a virgin, but that isn't true. No man has a right to force himself upon any woman in sexual relations. Among those who heard this was Elton Cox, 23, former Campbell College High School student, in the court awaiting trial for the alleged rape of Louise Waddell of Buie's Creek, a classmate. Judge Burgwyn apparently had taken cognizance of the large number of rape cases on the calendar.

Centers of Rebellion

The News and Courier

Crime is common in South Carolina, in most of the Southern states. In this state should be vigorous effort by citizens to apprehend criminals, try them, convict the guilty and punish them. Charleston, S.C.

White men who commit crimes against negroes should receive no lighter punishment than should negroes when white persons are their victims. Sat. 11-16-46

Not in South Carolina, not in Georgia, Mississippi, or other Southern state, are conditions comparable in brutality and terror with those of the 18th congressional district of New York city as described by the New York Herald Tribune.

In another American city conditions are worse. That city is Hollywood, in California. In a "new outbreak of movie strike violence a driverless bus was set aflame and it crashed into three parked buses". This bus had been used to carry non-strikers through picket lines. It was stolen and then set afire.

The bombing of two more homes, the fourth and fifth in 48 hours, of non-strikers in Hollywood was reported last Thursday. The fighting and the crime in which strikers have engaged in Hollywood has been going on months. In that city the prevalence of violence and felony is probably comparable with that anywhere in Asia or Africa.

Nobody is bombing homes in Bilbo's Mississippi. Sat. 11-16-46

The attention of the uplifting and liberal statesmen and journals in the United States is so absorbed with Southern crime, and with the parading of kluxers (that is not a crime), that no progress is made or can be made in putting an end to the Hollywood terror, which amounts to rebellion against all constitutions and all law and order. Thousands of persons are engaged in this rebellion, and, crediting the accuracy of The Herald Tribune's editorial statement, the 18th congressional district in its city of publication is a rebel district against political freedom and American civilization.

The accounts of crime in which many thousands of persons in bands participate in other parts of the United States do not in the least excuse the law-breaking in Southern states.

The News and Courier urges all good citizens to enlist in a movement to suppress crime in South Carolina, in Charleston,

Negro Youth Crime Rate Down; White Up

(Editor's note: In this, the second of a series of articles on "social breakdown" in Jefferson County, juvenile delinquency is discussed. The next article will be concerned with adult crime.)

BY ALYCE BILLINGS WALKER
News Staff Writer

The declining rate of juvenile delinquency in Jefferson County and Birmingham that began in 1940 and continued to drop throughout the war years, while throughout the nation this social ill was plummeting dizzy heights, is credited in 1945 to a drop in the Negro rate. The rate rose from 2.8 per 1,000 families in 1944 to 3.0 in 1945, while Negro rate dropped from 6.5 fare, health and education and the 1944 to 5.9 in 1945. state mental hospitals.

These figures are taken from the Five hundred and ninety-two chilual social breakdown report for dren from 543 families were inpast year, compiled by the re- volved in 695 incidents of juvenile ch department of the Communi- delinquency, the ages ranging from hest's Social Service Exchange 8 years through 18. Stealing repthe records of 18 courts, the resented nearly a third of the ic departments of public wel- crimes, with 293 cases recorded.

THE AGES FROM 14 TO 16 are the "problem" groups of both white and Negro youths, both boys and girls, with the age bracket of 11 through 13 years running a close second. Two hundred and fifty-five white children from 236 families were guilty of 313 incidents, while 337 Negro children from 307 families were involved in 382 incidents. In both races there were more boys involved than girls, but the number of females has risen steadily from 1940, the latter trend being nationwide.

Among the boys the most frequent offense is stealing, followed by truancy and ungovernableness, cy among girls, too, is up in inci- dents.

In the City of Birmingham, the rate of juvenile delinquency showed a slight rise from 4.8 per 1,000 fam-

ilies in 1944 to 4.9 in 1945, with the white race rate climbing from 2.7 in 1944 to 3.2 in 1945, while the Negro rate fell from 7.7 to 7.3 in the same period.

In Birmingham the chief source of trouble was stealing with 14 to 16 years of age being the "problem period," for both girls and boys. Truancy was second in number of incidents, followed by ungovernableness, carelessness, mischief and traffic violations, running away, injury to person and sex offenses.

Of the total 695 incidents, Birmingham is credited with 486, committed by 420 of the county's total of 592 children involved. To the Elyton district go the orchids for the year—there were no incidents of white juvenile delinquency recorded from there! However, the district as a whole shows a slight increase in rate because of the Negro rise from 4.9 in 1944 to 6.0 last year. Ihur. 7-11-46

* * *

"OLD BIRMINGHAM" — THE 13 CENSUS TRACTS that are the heart of the city is the trouble area, but, due to a 20 per cent drop in the Negro rate in this section offsetting the 33 per cent white increase, the district showed marked improvement over 1944, the rates varying from 7.0 to 6.6 in 1945. However, both in 1944 and again last year, it was the Five Point area from which came most of the trouble—22½ per cent of all "Old Birmingham" juvenile delinquency in 1944 and 30 per cent in 1945.

The East Lake district dropped more than 50 per cent; Avondale and the East Birmingham section dropped slightly. Graymont was down, as was West End by 30 per cent.

Woodlawn rose, with the white rate more than doubling and the Negro rate dropping slightly. North Birmingham's rate climbed 50 per cent and in Pratt City there was a 40 per cent rise, all of it in the white group. The Ensley-Wylam area was up, too, by 30 per cent, the white rate remaining the same as the previous year, with the Negro jumping 2.8.

Of course, in speaking of these rises and falls in rates, it must be remembered that a single incident of recorded misconduct per 1,000 families can often change the per cent increase or decline drastically. These rates indicate trends and danger signals.

Homewood, that in 1944 had the highest rate of municipalities in the county's juvenile delinquency picture, last year had no recorded cases, nor did Tarrant City. The Bessemer rate climbed from 5.5 in 1944, to 6.4 in 1945—the highest rate in these outlying communities. Fairfield showed a slight rise, while the remainder of Metropolitan Birmingham area showed a 12½ per cent drop. Ihur. 7-11-46

* * *

THE RATE IN LEEDS SHOWED A BIG JUMP, from 1.2 in 1944, to 6.1 in 1945. This community illustrates the point made previously, for here there were but six incidents of juvenile delinquency in 1945, as compared to one in 1944.

In studying these statistics and spotting rates on the map on the county, one point is strongly impressed. In areas where there is close cooperation between church, school, home and social agencies, youth problems are minimized. And in these areas not just one agency does the job, but a number of them are at work meeting varying needs. Too, these are the areas where there are more home owners and less crowding.

The fine record that has been made during the year by the Negro race is significant. A check-up has revealed that Boy and Girl Scouts, the Y. M. C. A. and the P.-T. A.s have been doing an excellent job among the colored youth. The improved economic status of the race is a potent factor, no doubt.

That stealing should lead the list of juvenile offenses is puzzling in this period when family incomes were high. The rise of offenses among girls points up a weakness in our social structure.

The high rate of truancy bears out the need for school authorities to look closely at their curriculums for those grades attended by the 14 to 16 year olds who are the ones most guilty of this offense. Apparently, life outside the school room is more attractive to them.

NOR ARE THE WHITES

A letter from the chairman of a Negro women's club in Birmingham said that the Negroes are not content with the justice they obtain at the hands of the officers of the law. Well, most white people are not content with it either. There is much injustice to the Negro. The same condition exists in the courts.

The courts have in the past had a tendency to laugh at the crimes the Negroes commit among themselves. Some have committed murder in the first degree and have been bailed out by some kind white friend. Many Negroes have learned to be brutal, knowing that they would get no punishment. This is not right. They should be protected from injustices from themselves and the law. The education of the Negro has been sadly neglected. That alone would cause many of the problems he has with officers of the law, ignorance of the statutes that exist.

It is to be hoped that talks of human brotherhood would help, but education on the part of both colored and white will solve the matter more wisely and sanely.—Hale County News (Moundville).

WOMAN ARRESTED IN KIDNAPING CASE

MOBILE, Ala., April 1—(AP)—A Negro woman has been arrested on a general holding charge for questioning in connection with the disappearance of an hours-old Negro baby from Mobile City Hospital March 24, Detectives Arthur Fields and Jack Donald said today.

The detectives reported they also were seeking another woman in their investigation.

The infant was removed from its crib six hours after birth, the detectives said. Physicians reported that the baby weighed less than five pounds at birth.

The boy baby was the second child of 18-year-old Mary Drakeford.

Newly-Born Infant Reported Missing

MOBILE, Ala., March 25—(AP)—Mobile police today were seeking a clue to the disappearance of an hours-old Negro infant whom Detectives Jack Donald and Arthur Field said was found missing from the Negro nursery of Mobile City Hospital.

The detectives said they believed the infant may have been kidnaped.

The new-born son of a Negro woman they identified as Mary Drakeford, 18, was born yesterday morning and was missing from its crib about six hours later, the detectives said.

11,354 Males Committed to Prisons, Farms in '44

WASHINGTON.

A total of 11,354 colored men were committed to Federal and State prisons and reformatories in 1944 for felony, according to a report by the Bureau of the Census. Of these, 2,474 went to Federal and 8,880 to State institutions.

The three most frequent Federal offenses were violation of national defense laws (597), violation of liquor laws (549), and larceny, except auto theft (320); these accounting for nearly three-fifths (59.3%) of the felony prisoners.

South Leads

The four offenses which accounted for the highest number of State felony prisoners were burglary (2,114), larceny, except auto theft (1811), robbery (1165), and aggravated assault (1003).

The total of these offenses (6,093) represents 68.6% of all male prisoners sent to State prisons.

In the Northeastern States, the number of felony prisoners was 1541; in the North Central States, 1400; in the South, 5,447, and in the West, 492.

The report covers male prisoners sentenced to terms of six months or more for offenses other than disorderly conduct, drunkenness or vagrancy. It is based on reports from 147 State and Federal institutions.

Policy 'King's' Kidnaping Laid To Capone Mob

Chicago, May 12 (U.P.)—A war by the old Capone mob for control of gambling was believed by police today the motive for the kidnaping of Edward P. Jones, 48, onetime dining-car waiter who gained fabulous wealth as "king" of the policy rackets on Chicago's South Side.

Jones, a Negro, who lived in a Michigan Avenue mansion, was kidnaped late last night by four masked men—two with machine guns—who cut off a pursuing police squad with a blast of bullets.

Investigators expressed belief Jones would be held until he agrees to relinquish his control of the numbers rackets, or be killed. Expecting the worst, police were searching South Side alleys and catch basins today for his body.

Negro Kidnap Case Baffles Police Officers In Chicago District

CHICAGO, May 13—(AP)—Police have admitted they are perplexed as to motive for the reported abduction of Edward P. Jones, 48, wealthy Negro, who the government once alleged was policy king of Chicago.

Chief Ray Crane, of the uniformed police, said he first believed, after Jones' wife, Lydia, reported her husband had been kidnaped on the South Side Saturday night, that Jones was being held for ransom.

But since no ransom note has been received, Crane said, "It seems likely the kidnapers have another object, but I haven't been able to learn what it is."

Police said Mrs. Jones told this story:

Jones, part owned of a variety store, was being driven home with his wife and the store's cashier. Jones' chauffeur stopped in front of the cashier's home to let her out.

A black and maroon sedan drew up and two white, masked gunmen slugged Jones and forced him into their car. As they drove off, Jones' chauffeur followed, summoning a police squad car to the chase.

Police said the squad car gave up the chase after it was splattered by bullets from the abductors' car.

Police quoted Mrs. Jones as saying she knew of no reason anyone should want to harm her husband, that he received no threats and "had no enemies that I know of." She added that Jones had been out both dining car waiters once, are reputed among the nation's richest Negroes.

Edward Jones served 22 months in a federal prison upon conviction in 1941 of evading $198,786 in income taxes.

of the policy game seven or eight years.

Profits from policy are said to be considerable. Bets are mostly small but the game has numerous followers.

Jones and his brother, George,

Texas AVC Acts to Check Increase in Race Incidents

Staff Correspondence

AUSTIN, Tex., Apr. 23.—A terrific increase in racial incidents in Texas, many of them involving Negro veterans, has led the Austin Chapter of the American Veterans Committee to take action on the matter.

Col. Homer Garrison, Jr., director of the State Dept. of Public Safety, announced recently that racial clashes have increased 900 per cent in 1945 over 1944. The Austin AVC has named a committee to confer with Garrison to see what can be done about it.

Recent incidents:

¶ At El Campo, a Negro veteran was killed by an officer, and his two brothers, one still in service, were charged with assault after a filling station row.

¶ At Wichita Falls, white and Negro soldiers stationed at Shepard Field have been involved in two street fights which began at dances where white soldiers were dancing and Negro soldiers were just allowed to listen.

¶ At San Angelo incidents have involved veterans of Mexican ancestry, and have included street fights between gangs of Mexicans and Texans.

Garrison's State Police are well-trained on such incidents, and the record of the one serious racial outburst in Texas, at Beaumont in 1944, shows that more whites were arrested than Negroes. This is an unusual record in the South.

While the attitude of the State police is reasonably unusual, Garrison has no control over the training of city and county police departments, where discriminatory treatment of Negroes is the rule. Just how the AVC committee can attack this phase of the situation is the major topic it will study.

The increases of unemployment in Texas in recent months is reviving competition for employment among Negroes, Americans of Mexican ancestry and native Americans.

Another factor in the increase in racial tension is the return of 150,000 Negro veterans who found more democracy even in the Army than they'd had at home, and who are finding that Texas whites are expecting them to return to their prewar status.

Dixie Negro Crime Rate Decreases

NASHVILLE — (ANP) — In an address before the 10th annual Southern States Probation and Parole Conference, held in Houston, W. O. Baird, commissioner of institutions of Tennessee, declared that Negroes are not leading in crime any more.

Commissioner Baird declared and cited an increase of white youth population of one Tennessee institution of from 260 to 370 within the past several months. "Crime among Negroes in the state, on the other hand, has shown a decided decrease," he said.

He gave higher salaries and better living conditions as the reason for the decrease in crime among Negroes and used the same reason —money—for the increase among the white youth.

Baird added that many cases of crime among whites are because they have had money during the war years when their parents were employed in war time industries.

"It is easier to raise one's standard of living than it is to lower it," he said. "Now that money has become a scarce item, the youth in many cases is unable to adjust himself to the fact that he does not have as much money to spend."

Calif. Man Abducts Infant, Insists He Is Baby's Father

LOS ANGELES (ANP)—Court attaches declare they have encountered cases where a man denied paternity, but never before one who claims to be the father of a child to the point where he is inspired to kidnap the child and its sister.

Held in municipal court under $5,000 bail, Robert Williams, 30, told police the abduction was motivated by love for his alleged offspring and the mother of the two children, Mrs. Marjorie Farwell. Paternity of the child will be established during the trial.

Mrs. Farwell said Williams held a gun on her and her husband, Robert, March 14, and drove away with the children after threatening to blow Farwell's brains out. The children were recovered at an address where Williams left them.

Earl Conrad

Chicago Defender, Illinois

Yesterday And Today

Crime Among Negroes

I DON'T KNOW how the crime rate among Negroes stacks up against the crime rate among whites; neither on a Federal, State, city or sectional basis. I don't know how it stacks up, one Negro for one white anywhere in the land; or whether that is a good, a correct or fair way to put it. But you know and I know that there is crime among Negroes and crime among whites. It is one of the most constant "problems" of society generally. It is a matter that concerns whites and that concerns Negroes. It concerns civic organizations and it is the subject of countless articles and discussions on juvenile delinquency.

Sat 4-20-46

Frequently I hear whites say that they will not employ Negroes "Because you can't trust them." Whites have a way of whispering to one another stories—perhaps real, perhaps fancied—of theft and other untrustworthiness among Negroes. They tend easily to build up these stories and stretch them beyond all semblance of fact so that finally a very real stereotype exists among whites that Negroes cannot be relied upon.

Stems from Slave Days

IF A DOMESTIC worker woman is discovered to be indulging in regular, or occasional hefts, the thing becomes multiplied so that "All Negro domestics will steal."

I do not know whether Negroes realize how widespread such views are among whites. To some extent this accounts for hesitation on the part of many whites toward hiring Negroes, when, on most other accounts, they might be ready to employ Negroes. Rumor, gossip, slander have had their effect.

I think that a great deal of this suspicion goes right back to the slave period when everything was a little more brutal than it is now: masters enslaved Negroes and in return, Negroes struck and revolted and occasionally killed. Masters stole all the labor-time of the slave and paid him nothing, and the slave sometimes stole a horse and wagon and made a getaway.

Frederick Douglass, who had little compunction about stealing from a society that stole his labor and blood and soul, explains thus: "The morality of free society could have no application to slave society. Slaveholders made it almost impossible for the slave to commit a crime, known either to the laws of God or to the laws of man. If he stole, he but took his own; if he killed his master, he only imitated the heroes of the Revolution. (The Revolution of 1776.—E. C.) Slaveholders I held to be individually and collectively responsible for all the evils which grew out of the horrid relation and I believed they would be so held in the sight of God. To make a man a slave was to rob him of moral responsibility. Freedom of choice is the essence of all accountability."

Law of Survival

Sat 4-20-46

IN SHORT, since a slave was outside all law, he had to make his own law: and it was a law of survival, and sometimes this included theft, and there was nothing wrong in it.

And there was nothing wrong in it too.

The remnants of slavery hang over with us. They are here in the form of peonage to the South, in the wage differentials that prevail in industry, in the system of sharecropping, and in the freedom to be unemployed. Since more of this lack of freedom of choice falls upon the people of the caste than it does upon white folks, there is bound to be more self-defense, self-preservation, more "compulsive violence" among Negroes than any other group.

I am not here condoning crime, or theft: even though, if I were called to serve on a jury trying a Negro youth for burglary, I probably would not and could not find him guilty, and would have to denounce my fellow jurors and myself as holding the true and ultimate responsibility.

The answer is not in crime, not in taking to theft, but in taking recourse, so far as possible, in all the organized forms of self-defense: in political, civic, and group organization.

Three Held in Smuggling Of Two English Girls

Courier

GALVESTON, Tex.—Two Pittsburgh Negro merchant seamen from the American Steamer William C. Endicott were bound over to the Federal Grand Jury under $750 bond last week in connection with the alleged smuggling aboard the ship of two English girls.

The seamen, Thomas J. Hanna, 22, and Theodore Bell, 25, both pleaded not guilty to the charge of illegally aiding the two English subjects to enter this country at a preliminary hearing before a U. S. Deputy Commissioner here. A Danish-born steward, George Jensen, implicated in the case, was also bound over to the Federal Grand Jury under similar bond on the same charge. All three were remanded to the custody of a U. S. Deputy Marshal. They will be held in a Wharton, Tex., county jail prior to opening of Federal Court here next month. The two seamen, both mess attendants, were taken into custody by Federal agents in Hitchcock, Texas, about twelve miles out of Galveston, where they were reportedly harboring the two girls on a farm there.

AWAIT DEPORTATION

The English girls, claiming London their home, are being held here awaiting deportation proceedings by immigration officials. They are Joan Marie Cooke, 20, and Renee Morris, 17, attractive blondes, who, according to investigators, enlisted the aid of professional hair dressers in dying their hair black. 6-8-46

Immigration officials here said the steamer Endicott docked in Galveston on May 22, when the girls were reportedly taken off the ship. They lived here for several days and then in Hitchcock where they were alleged to have been taken by the men.

Investigators said the girls were smuggled aboard on May 2 when the Endicott was tied up at the Royal Albert docks in London.

The captain received a radiogram notifying him that the girls were aboard several days out at sea, an immigration man here said, "but a search of the ship at that time proved fruitless."

Pittsburgh

"LIVED LIKE QUEENS"

The girls said they "lived like queens" during the voyage. "We were fed ice cream and anything we wanted." They were hid in a linen closet at sea and removed to the ventilators when customs officials and Coast Guardsmen made another search of the ship when it docked here.

The girls said they believed the ship was bound for New York "where we hoped to get employment."

"There's nothing in England for young people these days," Miss Cooke said. "England isn't progressing as fast as it should. The older people are too narrow-minded. They wouldn't even let us jitterbug in London. They said it was frightfully vulgar."

GOT GOOD CARE

6-8-46

Miss Morris said the "hospitality here in the United States is simply terrific. The seaman who helped us aboard the ship bought us new clothing when we arrived here and took good care of us."

After arriving here they were hidden for several days by a Negro man and his wife, and then when they feared the Federal officers were about to find them, they were taken to Hitchcock "to hide out until the chase cooled down," Miss Morris related.

Crime in Our Midst

Times-Dispatch

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

For the past few months a terrible thing has been going on in Richmond. White women have been attacked by Negroes, and last week two Negroes tried to break into my house. This same thing has happened quite often in Richmond in these last few weeks.

It is a shame when a person can't leave his house, either night or day, without the fear of someone breaking into his home and attacking his wife, or mother.

I realize the police are doing their best to apprehend these maniacs, but the policemen's best isn't enough.

Richmond, Va. Sat. 9-28-46

COTTON RIDDELL.
Richmond.

2 Policemen, Accused Thief, Shot in Downtown Affray

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

In a daylight shooting affray on Mitchell Street between Whitehall and Broad Streets, one of Atlanta's most crowded business districts a Negro boy, under arrest as a larceny suspect, shot and wounded two patrolmen and was in turn wounded by one of the policemen.

The Negro is in critical condition at Grady Hospital suffering from five bullet wounds. One of the patrolmen is at St. Joseph's Infirmary with a bullet wound in the right side. The other patrolman received minor injuries.

The victims of the fracas are: Richard Houston Periman, 16, Negro, of 540 Stonewall St., S. W., shot three times in chest and stomach and twice in the left hand.

Motorcycle Patrolman N. R. Clotfelter, shot in right side.

Patrolman Thomas E. Brown, shot in right leg just above the ankle.

Illus. 5-30-46

According to Detectives W. M. Cox and M. V. Moss, at 11 a. m. two white men saw a Negro boy break into an automobile parked on Trinity Avenue near Whitehall Street. They followed the boy to Whitehall and Mitchell streets and there informed Patrolman Clotfelter of the incident.

Clotfelter put the Negro under arrest, searched him and found in his pockets some mail addressed to Trinity Avenue addresses. The patrolman then took the Negro to the police call box at Broad and Mitchell streets.

There the Negro boy seized Clotfelter and tried to take his revolver, but a white man who saw the incident seized the revolver first. Then the Negro wrested it from the white man and turned it on Clotfelter, shooting at him three times.

Meanwhile, another white man ran up to Patrolman Brown, then on Whitehall St., and told him of the shooting. Brown ran in the direction of the call. As he did so, the Negro opened fire upon him. Brown then returned the fire and struck the Negro five times.

Detectives Cox and Moss arrived on the scene and had the Negro removed to Grady and the patrolman to St. Joseph's. Brown refused medical attention. They lodged four charges against the Negro—shooting an officer, suspicion of larceny, resisting arrest and shooting at another.

Patrolman Brown happened to be in the vicinity by merest accident. He was off duty at 8 a. m., but was waiting to get his pay check cashed. When warned of the shooting, he was awaiting a car to take him home. He is 63 years old and has been on the police force 26 years. 5-30-46

Negro Man Snatches $1,235 Atlanta Payroll

Advertiser

ATLANTA, June 14.—(AP)—A Negro man snatched a $1,235 payroll from the hands of a woman cashier as she walked in front of Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium today and escaped in an automobile driven by another Negro. Sat. 6-15-46

Detective Lt. D. L. Taylor said Mrs. Jack Reese, the cashier, told him she had the money in a bag and was en route from a bank to the E. Litchtenstein, Inc., wholesale grocery company, where she is cashier, when the robbery occurred. Montgomery, Ala.

Taylor quoted her as saying an automobile pulled to the curb and the Negro jumped out and snatched the bag. Mrs. Reese was alone.

Usury Charged to Ga. Official

The Afro-American

ATLANTA—(ANP)—The Fulton County Commission last week fired John Cramer, white head of the County Sanitary Department, on charges of usurious practices with employees. Baltimore, Md.

The charges were preferred and prosecuted by J. H. Aldredge, a new commissioner who charged Cramer with signing names of employees to the county payroll, cashing the checks, deducting money lent by him at 20 per cent and larger interests, and giving them the remainder. Sat. 11-23-46

In his attempted explanation, Cramer said he lent money to employees, but that he charged interest only when he had to get them out of jail. He admitted that he signed their names to checks "because they couldn't write."

5 Jailed in Crackdown On State-Wide Car Ring

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

Fri. 11-29-46

By KEELER McCARTNEY

Police have arrested three white garage operators and two Negro attendants in connection with what they believe to be one of the most extensive automobile theft rings operated in Georgia in the last two decades.

Those arrested were identified as Calvin Smith, 32, of a Bankhead Highway address, released under $2,000 bond; James Petty, 28, of Tenth Street, released under $4,000 bond, and W. A. Lyle, 47, of Cooper Street, released under $1,000 bond.

The Negroes, under $1,000 bond each, were listed as Fred Wright and LeRoy Marshall, both of Frazier Street.

City Detectives George Barrett and L. H. Satterfield, who with Fulton County Detectives L. W. Cook and H. C. Copeland have worked almost night and day for three weeks on the case, said the value of the stolen autos would range between $60,000 and $75,000. Twenty cars have been recovered.

The car thefts took place over the past six months, Barrett and Satterfield said, and most of the autos taken were late-model Chevrolets. They had been unable to find a trace of the missing cars until two weeks ago, when an informant led them to a garage on Bolton Road near Bankhead Highway.

There the detectives reported finding several cars in the process of being repainted. They also said the motor numbers and secret identification numbers had been removed and, in many instances, new numbers stenciled on the metal plates

One of the first cars recovered was that of Frank Broyles, of Decatur, star quarterback on the Tech football squad. Barrett and Satterfield said the auto had been completely repainted and reupholstered, but Broyles was able to make an identification by a mark of lipstick across the top of the sedan which the ring had missed.

Most of the machines recovered were found in Cedartown, Carrollton, Austell, and Gadsden, Ala. All of them had been completely remodeled, detectives said, and actually were in better condition than when stolen. Each of the recovered cars had been sold for a price above $1,000.

In addition to Broyles, those whose cars have been recovered include:

Henry L. Menagan, 559 Simpson St., N. W.; Herbie Mills, 226 Holderness St., S. W.; Willie Malone, 467 John St., N. W.; Otto Hood, 154 Milton St., S. W.; C. A. Brown, 1167 Finwood St., S. W.; Grady Jeffares, 636 Ashby St., S. W.; Daisy Lewis, 50 Chestnut St., S. W.; A. S. Dixon, 484 Griffin St., N. W.

W. H. Shell, 1000 Ashby Ter., S. W.; A. S. Dickerson, 69 Martin St., S. E.; R. J. Bailey, Youngstown, Ohio; George Smith, 769 McDaniel St., S. W.; Harry Leach, Hapeville; Robert T. Hubbard, Locust Grove; L. L. Sherrill, 180 Cleveland St., S. E.; Roy C. Johnson, 1263 Peachtree St., N. E.; A. Q. Joiner, 380 Peachtree

cade, and E. H. Newberry, 66 Baker St., N. E.

Illinois

Policy King 'Snatch' Puzzles Chicago Police

Southside Stirred As Threat Of Gangland War Looms In Fight For Racket Control

KIDNAPED BY GANGSTERS

F L A S H!

BULLETIN — Late unconfirmed rumors were received that the family of Edward Jones, kidnaped policy king, were in communication with the abductors on a $250,000 ransom deal for his return.

Why was Edward J. Jones, wealthy business man, policy baron and owner of the Jones Brothers' Five and Ten Cents store kidnaped last Saturday night?

That's the latest mystery — coming on the heels of the famous unsolved Degnan case—now confronting the entire Chicago police department. So far there is not the slightest clue that would give them a lead to apprehend the guilty parties. One theory on the "snatch" is as good as the other.

However, an hour after Jones was spirited away, a popular sportsman, formerly connected with his policy enterprises, is said to have received a mysterious phone call advising him that "they would call again when things cooled down." Thus far, neither the family of Jones nor his friend have heard from the kidnapers.

Four Kidnapers

Jones was seized by four unmasked kidnapers last Saturday night about 11 o'clock in front of 4328 South Parkway, the residence of his cashier, Mrs. Frances Myles, whom he was driving home. In the car with him at the time were his chauffeur, Joseph Brock, and Jones' wife, Mrs. Lydia Jones.

When they pulled to the curb four swarthy lookin men jumped from a red Mercury and snatched open the door where Ed Jones was seated. They all were armed with 12-inch sawed-off shotguns. They kept their motor running.

"Is this Ed Jones?" one asked.

"Yes, I'm Ed Jones, why?"

"Come on, get out, we wantcha," the gunman rejoined roughly.

Jones hesitated and demanded the reason for their abrupt request.

"Come on, get out in a hurry; we mean business," shouted another gunman supporting his partner's demand. He slightly shouldered his weapon.

EDWARD P. JONES

Wealthy business man, former policy king and owner of the Jones Brothers Ben Franklin Store, who was snatched from his limousine in front of 4328 South Parkway Saturday night by four gangsters, thought to have been members of a mob from Cleveland, O. The family is awaiting word from the kidnapers to pay the ransom demand.—Chicago Defender Photo.

Mrs. Jones Fights

Mrs. Jones, in the rear seat, threw her arms around her husband's neck screaming: "You're not gonna take my husband!" They then dragged Jones from the car, struck him back of the neck and stunned him, then picked him up bodily and threw him in the back seat. Mrs. Jones, screaming: "They're kidnaping my husband," fought with one of the gunmen but he shoved her away and sped on.

Her screams attracted the attention of the Accident Prevention Squad, manned by Policemen Michael Derrane and William Barber, that happened to be passing. They took up the chase, closely followed by Jones' chauffeur. The abductors, seeing the police car closing in on them, broke the rear window of their auto and sent a volley of shots at it which tore through the left windshield wounding Officer Derrane. Handicapped by the loss of his partner, Barber gave up the chase, but he radioed the direction in which the kidnapers' car was traveling; west on 46th st.

Failure of the abductors to make contact with the family or demand a ransom has puzzled police. Several theories have been advanced to explain the first major kidnaping of a Negro in the history of Chicago. Aaron H. Payne, attorney for the Jones family, said that up to late Monday night, he had received no ransom demands from the kidnapers.

Some Theories

Here are some of the theories in the mystery:

Was the kidnaping for ransom? If so, why have the abductors failed thus far to contact the family or some intimate friend of Jones?

Was it solely for revenge, to get even with Jones for some promise he had made the gangster outfit and not kept?

Was it for muscling in on the music vendor "record racket" which is now tightly gangster bound?

Jones is said to have recently invested $100,000 in a record producing company with a view to helping some ex-convict whom he met while serving a prison term in Terre Haute.

Did Jones welch somewhere down the line in donating a sizeable fee to a defense fund to protect some gangster interest?

The revenge motive was dispelled when it was learned that the gangsters had the "drop" on Jones and could have shot him down immediately had they so desired.

It is believed that the abductors were a "foreign outfit;" probably recently released convicts who were "busted" and just out to make a "quick and easy snatch" to recoup their lost fortunes. This is evidenced by the fact that they were unmasked and were totally unacquainted with the neighborhood in which they were operating, chasing up a blind alley and having to retrace their steps.

Imported Mob?

Then it is believed that a "Chicago mob" might have imported the four to do the job for a split of the proceeds. Police officials say that the abductors' error in firing on the squad car showed their desperation to do a well-knit job under some superior orders.

One theory is that the tardiness in making the ransom demand was due to the "heat" that is on the kidnaping, a factor the abductors did not immediately expect. It would have been a "quiet snatch" had not Mrs. Jones' screams brought the police into immediate action and forced the kidnapers to fire on them. According to high police officials this is contrary to the operations of the "snatch racket," because kidnapers scrupulously avoid creating scenes.

Chief Ray Crane of the uniformed force, second in command of the Chicago department, said the motive of the kidnapers thus far is not apparent.

"Up to this time I had been inclined to the view Jones was being held for ransom," Chief Crane said. "However, in the absence of any message concerning his disappearance, it seems likely the kidnapers had another object, but I haven't been able to learn what it is."

The Chief spent Sunday making investigations on the South Side and questioning intimate friends of Jones regarding his latest moves and contacts.

Monday that the abductors had made a six-figure ransom demand to release Jones, placing their wants at $250,000, but this was treated as mere rumor when no one could locate definite authority for it. That Jones feared no such fate as befell him last Saturday night was substantiated by his attorney Aaron Payne who stated that he didn't go armed nor did he employ a bodyguard.

Police have totally discounted the theory that the "snatch" was instituted by gangsters who wanted to muscle in on the policy racket. The muscling in, on such rackets they said, never asserts itself through the methods employed by Jones' abductors. Conferences are usually held with policy operators and demands are presented. No such conferences were ever held with Jones, his associates said. If they were they said he would have informed them of such threats.

Friends of Jones in the policy racket contend that the "industry" is very much overrated as to the intake. Since employment has been on the upgrade, and law enforcement officers have been more diligent in suppressing the vice, the racket has suffered a tremendous setback. They asserted that no such profits are accumulated from its operations as the daily press contends. They declared, however, that Jones at one time was the biggest operator in the business and largely accumulated his wealth, if not solely, from this racket.

Since his return from federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind., where he served 22 months for income tax violations he has made some wise investments which enlarged his fortune. He has purchased hotels and large apartment buildings and entered other business ventures. Several months ago he attempted to purchase a government project in Washington offering his personal check of $250,000 as down payment. A higher bid was made by another party.

On many occasions Jones has been severely criticized for placing too much faith in "his white friends." His property and most of his business interests are handled by them. In many instances, his friends believe, he has bared his innermost secrets where they have engendered jealousy of his material prosperity. On numerous occasions these "white friends" have been guests in his home and have even enjoyed long stays at his villa in Mexico City at Jones' personal expense.

Some believe that Ed Jones was labelled as a "good snatch" by the gangsters because in 1929 or there-

Policy King Freed For $100,000

The most sensational kidnap in Chicago's history, which police freely admitted had them baffled, came to a dramatic climax early Friday morning with the release of Edward P. Jones, multi-millionaire business man and policy baron, after payment of $100,000 ransom to his abductors.

Immediately, the entire police department and the FBI joined in a nation-wide search for two suspects, both known as dangerous gangsters with prison records.

They are Grover Dullard, bodyguard expert, and suspect in the killing of Harry "Red" Richmond, West side bookie; and Virgil Summers, leader of a handbook stickup gang, sought also in a series of robberies.

Dullard was once the bodyguard of the late Jack Zuta, George "Bugs" Moran and Terry Druggan.

Jones, wealthy businessman and policy baron, was snatched May 11, from a car in front of 4328 South Parkway, held five days, and released Friday, May 17, 1 a. m., at 62nd st., and Loomis ave., following payment of a reputed $100,000. He was apparently unharmed.

Quarrels With Hoodlums

Police say that the night before he was kidnaped he quarreled violently with five West side hoodlums.

The argument occurred in a South side cafe to which Jones supposedly invited the men to "talk things over." After drinking for several hours the men began shouting at Jones and he left following a sharp verbal exchange.

Descriptions of two of the men who kidnaped Jones the next night tallied, police say, with a pair of those at the "party." They have been investigating reports that Jones was trying to muscle in on the West side juke box racket.

Elaborate plans to nab the kidnapers at the scene of the ransom payment were in the meantime disclosed by police officials, who state that detectives were actually present when the $100,000 was dropped from an automobile last Thursday.

Plan Lacking

The plan, which did not include shadowing of George Jones, brother of Edward, who arranged for the payment, lacked one vital detail.

There was no provision for having some one capture the kidnapers when they picked up the package containing the money at Blue Island and Western aves., last Thursday, or to have some one pursue the kidnap car or see where it went.

There was no pursuit. One explanation offered was that it was avoided for fear that Jones, who was still held by the kidnapers, might be harmed. He was not released until eight hours after the ransom had been paid.

Detectives on the scene said they recognized two persons in the ransom car and that these persons are sought.

Jones Easy Match

Jones was an easy match for the kidnapers, as it was his policy to move about unguarded. He remained captive for almost a week because his brother's signature was needed to obtain the ransom money. At the time of the kidnaping George was in Mexico. He flew to Chicago after receiving the news.

Meanwhile Jones, who says he will conduct his business as uussual and spend as much time as he can in Chicago, remained in strict seclusion. All attempts to have him, his lawyers or relatives disclose further details of the kidnaping were met with "No statement."

He is expected to leave soon for Mexico where his children are being educated.

Ed stated that he was given fair treatment by his abductors, that he was placed in a room with bed and other conveniences and that during the entire five days he was blindfolded with adhesive tape. His ears were also stuffed with cotton so that he could not hear the conversation of the kidnapers. He said he was not mistreated or manhandled.

He followed instructions given by the kidnapers not to talk or ask any questions. He was fed excellent food, he said, and judging from his appearance, he was in the best of health and spirits, but visibly tired.

Ed told newspapermen that after he had been snatched from in front of 4328 South Parkway, Saturday night, a bag was thrown over his head and he was forced to lie down on the floor of the kidnapers' car.

At no time during the drive from the scene of abduction did he know where he was going or in what direction. He stated emphatically that no shots were fired from the car in which he was traveling. He explained that it must have been another auto trailing the kidnapers that fired at the police.

No "Muscle In"

Jones, whose wealth was gained from policy operations, was first believed to be the victim of a snatch in connection with the racket, but this theory has been discounted by those "in on the know" who stated that no claims for muscling in had been made from outside sources. Others of almost equal prominence in the policy game have received no such threats from alleged invaders, nor has Jones ever intimated that any such claims had been made upon him. The muscling in on such rackets, they said, never asserts itself through the method employed by Jones' abductors Conferences are usually held with policy operators and demands are presented to be fulfilled at a specific date. No such approaches were made by gangster outfits, they said, and if Jones had been personally threatened, or approached on such matters, he would surely have passed the word down.

"Fingered" By Friend

That Jones was "fingered" last Saturday night by a person who knew him well and had observed his habits is indicated by the fact that they knew it was his custom to drive Mrs. Frances Myles, his cashier, home after she checked receipts of the store. The kidnapers' car did not trail Jones, but was parked in front of Mrs. Myles' home awaiting his arrival. When Joseph Brock, Jones' chauffeur, pulled to the curb, two of the kidnapers, whose faces were half concealed by handkerchiefs, jerked open the door where Jones was seated. They were armed with 12-inch sawed-off shotguns. They kept their motor running.

It was pointed out that the kidnapers had ample funds with which to operate after they snatched Jones, since he had a large amount of cash on him, representing receipts from his store and other businesses. The amount was placed at $6,000.

Police unsatisfied with Jones' story of his kidnapping

CHICAGO—Police here said last week that they weren't satisfied with the sketchy story given them by Edward P. Jones, 48, wealthy policy king, who was returned to his home for $100,000 ransom after five days in the company of his kidnappers.

Jones was asked 44 questions, police said, and all his replies except four were negative or evasive. All they were able to learn was that Jones was blindfolded all during his abduction, that his unidentified kidnappers did not talk to him, did not beat him, but fed him.

Jones also denied knowledge of the policy racket and said his income—which has provided him with $200 suits, a mansion, a couple of estates, mink coats for his wife, and three liveried chauffeurs—came from a small southside variety store. He added that he didn't know whether a ransom was paid or, if it was paid, who paid it.

Chicago Policy King Silent on Kidnaping Cost

Chicago, May 17 (U.P.).—Edward P. Jones, 48, wealthy Negro policy king, was released by kidnapers for a reported $100,000 ransom today and as much as told police to mind their own business about it.

Jones

Jones, one-time dining car waiter, was kidnaped last Saturday night by four masked men on a South Side street. He was released early today, blindfolded, on another South Side street.

To 44 questions asked by police, all his replies were negative or evasive except four, which revealed that:

1. He was blindfolded all the time he was held by kidnapers; they did not taik to him, did not beat him, and did feed him.

2. He does not know who they are.

3. He doesn't know anything about the policy racket.

(4) He derives his income—which has enabled him to live in a mansion, purchase mink coats for his wife and $200 suits for himself, and keep a couple of estates and three liveried chauffeurs—from a modest variety store.

He doesn't know, he said, whether a ransom was paid. If ransom was paid, he said, he doesn't know who paid it. His story indicated he would prefer police to forget the kidnaping.

Unconfirmed reports said Jones' brother, George, who flew here this week from his Mexico estate, paid a ransom. Estimates on the sum ranged from $50,000 to $500,000, but informed sourccecs tagged it at $100,000.

His negative attitude left investigators wondering whether the abduction was solely for ransom, a move by members of the old Capone mob to muscle in on the policy racket, or a combination of both.

A police squad and Jones' brother, picked him up on the South Side after 1 a. m. A beard covered his face. His expensive clothes were rumpled. Otherwise he appeared unruffled. He telephoned his wife, Lydia, then reported to police headquarters.

Kidnapee Wants Police To Forget It

Racketeer Doesn't Know Any Answers

Chicago, May 17 (U.P.)—Edward P. Jones, 48, wealthy Negro policy king, was released by kidnapers for a reported $100,000 ransom today but his story of the abduction would indicate he merely had been on a slightly unpleasant five-day vacation.

Jones, a one-time dining-car waiter who amassed a fortune in the numbers racket, was kidnaped last Saturday night by four masked men on a South Side street. He was released early today, blindfolded, on another South Side street.

Police said they weren't satisfied with his story of the kidnaping. To 44 questions, all his replies were negative or evasive except four. These revealed that:

1. He was blindfolded all the time he was in the hands of the kidnapers.

Store Seems Profitable.

2. He doesn't know who they are.

3. He doesn't know anything about the policy racket.

4. He derives his income—which has enabled him to live in a mansion, purchase mink coats for his wife and $200 suits for himself, and keep a couple of estates and three liveried chauffeurs—from a modest South Side variety store.

He doesn't know, he said, whether a ransom was paid. If ransom was paid, he said, he doesn't know who paid it. His story indicated he would prefer police to forget the kidnaping.

Unconfirmed reports said Jones' brother, George, who flew here this week from his Mexico estate, paid a ransom. Informed sources tagged it at $100,000.

Jones Well Able to Pay Ransom

CHICAGO—That Ed Jones was well able to pay a considerable ransom was disclosed in the files of the inheritance tax office through a return on the estate of McKissack Jones, a brother, who was killed in an auto accident in 1944.

This return showed that "Jones Brothers—a partnership" on July 20, 1945, had assets of $1,153,193 in cash, mortgages, Government bonds and securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange. A quarter interest of upwards of $250,000 was claimed for M'Kissack's estate.

The return showed that the partnership consisted besides M'Kissack, of Edward P., George P. and Harriett, mother of the three boys.

came to light Friday, when it was learned that two months ago he had contracted for the purchase of $100,000 worth of jukeboxes.

The placing of these machines in the South Side's numerous taverns, restaurants and bars would result in a great financial loss to the present operators of the juke box business.

Insiders contend that the kidnaping may have been intended as an effort by these operators headed by "Dutch" Vogel to frighten Jones away from his music box venture.

Jukebox War Seen Behind Kidnaping

CHICAGO — A new theory on the kidnaping of Edward P. Jones sic box venture.

He Tells Cops Mind 'Blank'

Afro-American Baltimore Md.

Replies in Negative to Detective Queries

Sat. 7-25-46

APPEARS UNHURT

FBI Took No Action in Abduction Case

CHICAGO—Edward P. Jones, 48, one-time king of the South-side's lush $50,000-a-day policy racket, was released unharmed Friday after the reported payment by relatives of $100,000 as ransom.

The only physical effect Jones's imprisonment appeared to have had was a mysterious loss of memory, police disclosed.

The son of a Mississippi preacher, who turned a $5000 inheritance into an estate worth several millions, Jones was kidnapped on May 11 and held for six days.

Answers Only Four

To 44 questions asked by police, all his replies were negative or evasive except four, which revealed that:

1. He was blindfolded all the time he was in the hands of the kidnappers; they did not talk to him, did not beat him, and did feed him.

2. He did not know who they are. 5-25-46

3. He did not know anything about the policy racket.

4. He derives his income — which has enabled him to live in a mansion, purchase mink coats for his wife and $200 suits for himself, and keep a couple of estates and three liveried chauffeurs—from a modest Southside variety store.

Though Jones contended he did not know whether or not a ransom had been paid, reliable reports were that his brother, George, who flew here last week from his Mexican estate, paid $100,000 for his release.

Following payment of the ransom on Thursday night, Jones was found by police on the corner of 62nd and Loomis Sts., on Chicago's South Side about 1:45 a.m. Friday morning.

Brother Supplies Tip

Radio patrolmen who found Jones, revealed that they had acted on information furnished by his brother, George. The officers said that the kidnap victim bore marks on his cheeks and neck where adhesive tape had been applied to hold a blindfold.

Jones indicated that he would rather that police simply forget about the whole thing, as he apparently has done. It was the third time he had been abducted, police learned, although the two previous kidnapings had never been reported. 5-25-46

When found by the officers he was neatly attired in a blue pin-stripe suit and clean white shirt, indicating that the stay with his captors had not been uncomfortable.

First report of his release came from Chief of Detectives Walter Storms, early Friday morning. After receiving a phone call from George Jones, Storms announced Jones's release, jammed on his hat and left on a mysterious errand.

Returns with Victim

Three hours later he reported at headquarters with the missing victim. Sat.

Storms gave newspapermen this version of the kidnaping:

Jones was forced into the abductors' car and a sack was thrust over his head. After a zigzag ride of an hour and a half, he was led into a building and thrown onto a bed where the men removed the sack and blindfolded him and plugged his ears.

When Jones was released, he was driven to Chicago's South Side, still wearing the blindfold and ear plugs.

Irked by Jones's recalcitrance in talking about the case, William J. Tuohy, State's Attorney, said he was dissatisfied with the statement Jones gave police and would question him later.

Curious About Ransom

He said he was particularly curious about the amount of ransom paid the abductors, if any.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation took no action in the case. Richard Hosteny, assistant chief of the FBI in Chicago, said that if seven days had passed without response from the victim, the G-men would have taken over automatically under the Federal kidnaping statutes. He admitted that his office had kept an eye on the case.

It was not until Wednesday that the police admitted for the first time that a ransom note, perhaps several, had been received from the abductors.

Start Policy Policy

Jones's abduction has resulted in a concerted drive by police against the policy racket. The drive was laid directly to police orders. 5-25-46

Police Commissioner Prendergast handed the three district captains in the predominantly colored sections a copy of a letter he had received from Virgil S. Peterson, operating director of the Chicago Crime Commission, demanding action against the racket.

Three years ago, Ed Jones was released from the Federal penitentiary at Terre Haute, Ind., where he served a term for income tax evasion. He purchased a home in Mexico. He, his brother and mother already had one on the French Riviera, it was said.

According to reliable information, Ed Jones had friends in sporting circles in Mexico, some of whom were preparing to get American sports teams into the country.

Ed's brother, George, and his mother, Mrs. Harriet Jones, widow of the late Edward P. Jones, who migrated with his family to Chicago from Vicksburg, Miss., arrived in Chicago by plane from Mexico last Wednesday night.

Abducted Chicago Negro Returns Safely

News, Birmingham Ala.

CHICAGO, May 17—(AP)—Chief of Detectives Walter G. Storms said today that Edward P. Jones, wealthy Negro and reportedly boss of the policy gambling in Chicago, had been released by abductors who kidnaped him last Saturday night. Birmingham, Ala.

Storms said the 50-year-old Negro was "safe and sound," but he did not say whether a ransom had been paid, nor did he disclose any other information about the abduction. 5-17-46

Several hours after Storms' announcement, the detective chief and Jones appeared at Central Police Station. 5-17-46

Jones said he did not know any of the abductors or where he had been held for the last five days and said he "did not remember" if the kidnapers demanded ransom. Friday

Jones disclosed that during the time he was held by his abductors he was forced to lie on a bed and was under constant guard.

Jones' release came five days after four white men had pulled him from his automobile in the presence of his wife, Lydia Frances Myles, a cashier in Jones variety store, and his chauffeur.

They forced him into their car and drove away. As the cashier summoned police, the chaffeur pursued the car and was joined by a police squad. They chased the abductors' car several blocks until the kidnapers opened fire on the police with a submachine gun.

Jones, a former dining car waiter, reportedly is among the country's wealthiest Negroes. A few year sago he served 22 months in a federal prison after he was convicted of evading $198,786 in income taxes. 5-17-46

Kidnapped "Policy King" Missing Again; To Face Grand Jury Investigation

Houston, Texas The Informer

By HAZEL L.GRIGGS

CHICAGO — (ANP)— Edward Jones, millionaire sportsman head of Chicago's southside policy game, who was released by kidnappers recently upon payment of a reputed $100,00, last week was missing again. The current disappearance was thought to be due to a pending grand jury investigation of his five-day imprisonment by abductors which Jones faces upon his return to the city.

Conflicting versions of Jones return to the southside after his abduction were given last week by four so-called eyewitnesses, all of them denying the suave policy king's story that he had just been released when he was picked up on Friday, May 17, from 62nd and Ada sts. by his brother, George accompanied by police.

All four persons testified that they had seen Jones on May 16, the day the ransom was paid, although he didn't report to police until May 17. One of the informants was said to have seeh Jones entering the bathhouse he operates about 4 p.m. on May 16. According to this version, Jones was dishevelled and needed a shave at that time. When he was picked up by his brother and the police escorts on Friday he was described as "well dressed and clean shaven."

Second Version

The second story says the kidnap victim was seen shortly after 5 p.m. May 16 near his home at 47th st. and Michigan ave. The third confirms this, and the fourth declares Jones was seen to enter the Vincennes' ave. home of Theodore Roe, his business manager on May 16.

On the basis of these reports, police are inclined to believe that Jones was released hours before they were notified, perhaps even before the ransom was paid. Police watched payment of the ransom to the supposed abductors but made no arreses in an agreement with Jones' family to secure his safety.

Jones who has been in seclusion since shortly after his release, is believed to have become wary when the Chicago Crime commission announced the pending grand jury probe. His Mexico City home was cited as the most logical place for him to be, and detectives were alerted to watch all out-going planes and trains headed that way. The transportation tie-up may have changed Jones' plan, but he is thought to have made reservations on the Golden State Limited with the destination El Paso, Tex George, his brother, is believed to be with him.

Chicago Cops Put Heat on Numbers

Afro-American Md.

CHICAGO—(ANP) — Most policy wheels here are reported closed, but the numbers game continues to flourish in East Chicago, Gary, Indiana Harbor, and other suburban communities south of the city. 6-8-46

Operations were moved to these sites when police, spurred by the kidnaping of Edward P. Jones, reputed ruler of the policy world, redoubled efforts to wipe out the leech-like game so prevalent on the Southside. Md.

Warfare Feared

Some effects of the "heat" put on policy operators by authorities, can be seen in the change from "wide open" transactions to the "back alley" methods used before

9 of 11 Arrested in Connection With Jones Abduction Freed

Afro-American Md.

CHICAGO—(NNPA)—Chief Justice Harold G. Ward in criminal court last Tuesday ordered the release of 9 of the 11 persons seized by police in a wholesale roundup of known police characters for questioning in connection with the $100,000 ransom kidnaping of Edward P. Jones, wealthy policy king. Just a few of the 50-odd persons sought for questioning, the men weer ordered released or booked following their appearance before the jurist on writs of habeas corpus. 6-1-46

Judge Ward said that if police could cite any definite evidence against any of the persons held, he would be glad to allow police ample time for investigation, but added that they cannot arrest people at random without evidence, and investigate them at their leisure.

d by official revealed to d policy was abduction is of a renewal ne era gang

ects of the drawn it to racial groups muscle in."

Gambling legal in Chicago. Or who's fooling who...?

All we know is what we read in the papers, so after reading the Chicago Sun, we have concluded gambling is legal in Chicago.

And the gamblers are the town's first citizens, getting police protection and everything.

Take the kidnapping of one of the Jones brothers, for instance. Jones, you will remember, was snatched a couple of weeks ago off the Southside of Chicago by a mob which should have known that wasn't cricket; and his brother George had to pay $100,000 to get him back.

But in Chicago, things are done in a big way. I'm telling you!

Jones had to cut loose with 100,000 simoleons to the smart guys that snatched him, but what do the big shots of the Windy City do? Why they get together and put in and give the $100,000 right back to Jones. How do you like that for cameraderie? All for one and one for all. I'm telling you!

First they hold a meeting at a joint owned by one of the big shots, Theodore Roe, described by the newspapers as the Jones brothers' former manager, but now "virtual head of the district's syndicate of 28 wheels and 2100 stations".

And—get this, will you—when Jones goes to the meeting, he's got protection, police protection, two plain clothesmen from the Wabash avenue station. Why that guy—that guy's almost as big as the President!

Yeah, and the day after the meeting, it made the front page of the Sun, and not only the front page, but the second headline. Right under the Sun's 100-unit head: "SENATE LABOR FOES UNITE"—(the Sun's kind of a people's paper, you know, and it lays it on thick)—there it was in what the newspaper boys call 84-point type: "Policy Operators To Pay Jones Ransom". Sat. 6-1-46

This Roe is sure some big shot, because the Sun said he gave orders after the meeting for the wheels, which had been closed down during the kidnapping scare, to open up. And hurry up about it, he said; because the operators need money to pay Jones' ransom back to him. Los Angeles

Of course, we ain't kidding. Sure, it said that, right on the front page. Not in those words, but the meaning was the same. Roe cracks the whip and calls, Come on, suckers. We gotta hurry up and rake in enough dough to pay this poor little old millionaire back his 100 grand. California

Look, jack, I'm thinking of moving to Chicago. I gotta little racket, you see. . . . Aw, jack, them suckers in Chi will go for it, hook, line and sinker. Make me a million in no time.

Jack, a cat's got a future in Chicago. The cops protect him. The newspapers flatter him. And the people—they love him $100,000 worth, all in nickles and dimes.

Police Announce Jones Ransom Serial Numbers

Defender

Any dispute as to whether ransom was paid and if so how much to the kidnapers of Edward P. Jones, millionaire policy king, was temporarily settled this week when Detective Chief Walter Storms stated that $100,000 had been paid, and listed serial numbers of $15,000 worth of the bills.

The numbers were for 56 one hundred dollar bills and 188 fifty dollar bills. When asked about smaller denominations included in the ransom payment, Storms replied, "That's all we're giving out at this time." 6-1-46

He declined to answer when asked whether police had numbers of the smaller bills and why the numbers of the $100 and $50 bills had not been made public sooner than nine days after the money had been paid. Chicago, Ill.

See Page 2 for list of serial numbers.

Following are the serial numbers of $15,000 of the $100,000 paid by the family to kidnapers of policy bigwig Edward Jones. The partial list was revealed this week by Detective Chief Walter Storms, who also affirmed rumors that total payment had been $100,000. (See Page 1.) 6-1-46

$100

K00190084A	G00373631A	G01307510A
G00067108A	G00380977A	G01309581A
G00104539A	G00432124A	G01309582A
G00125096A	G00657630A	G01309583A
G00131763A	G00756353A	G01312927A
G00136768A	G00863912A	G01323216A
G00153959A	G00903413A	G01476024A
G00181622A	G00930592A	G01498932A
G00223484A	G01011812A	G01501904A
G00243959A	G01085093A	G01515413A
G00321160A	G01104868A	G01711707A
G00334489A	G01140956A	G01754590A
G00370001A	G01169180A	G01929807A
G00370268A	G01175988A	G01938722A
G00370269A	G01228733A	G01973931A
G00370270A	G01298472A	G02265291A
G00370271A	G01298473A	G02499275A
G00370272A	G01300800A	G07002497A
G00371672A	G01307509A	

$50

G00016054	G02956076A	G06256539A
G00033708	G03095084A	G06267064A
G00042875	G03266960A	G06278970A
G00053881	G03509338A	G06289685A
G00066894	G03608567A	G06289700A
G01017736A	G03641768A	G06298843A
G01045895A	G03734918A	G06313076A
G01080214A	G03750173A	G06379975A
G01084744A	G04040361A	G06396307A
G0013880A	G04178938A	G06415610A
G00158827A	G04209949A	G06415611A
G00300396A	G04274808A	G06415613A
G00339062A	G04299814A	G06425017A
G00414879A	G04304072A	G06458349A
G00415890A	G04409452A	G06529873A

G004[illegible]126A	G04484939A	G06553226A
G00526012A	G04520932A	G06559666A
G00551388A	G04528531A	G06558361A
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G02674036A	G06055410A	G07047649A
G02686226A	G06059964A	G07054426A
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Policy War Looms In Mystery Killing

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 9-21-46

Open warfare flared this week on the lush $10,000,000 Southside policy front, as a gangland bullet in the back of the head killed Robert Wilcox, in what loomed as the first shot in a desperate battle by white hoodlums to "muscle in" on the easy money.

On the heels of this warning murder, which erased one "cog" in the smoothly oiled policy empire ruled by Baron Ed Jones, Theodore Roe, a more important figure in the Jones empire, disclosed that he apparently was marked for No. 2, on the basis of a threat to either kidnap or murder him.

Sources close to the top of the policy kingdom, saw in the two opening salvos, a highly probable connection with the kidnaping recently of Jones himself, who was released after shelling out $100,000 ransom. Jones has steadily refused to give any important evidence or aid in tracking his kidnapers. Apparently Jones, for business reasons or for his own personal safety, preferred to thread the labyrinth of the underworld himself, without police help.

The racket, traditionally controlled by a clique of Negro gamblers has been jealously eyed by white gangsters since the repeal of prohibition robbed them of the more lucrative bootlegging racket.

Wilcox was the sole manufacturer of policy paraphernali and shared partnership with Roe in the Boston Club, a gambling enterprise located on the second story of the building at 4234 Wabash ave., where the dead man operated his business.

This week's exciting chapter follows a recent effort on the part of whites to take over the Southside taverns and liquor stores which followed the kidnaping of Edward Jones.

Roe is a Jones lieutenant.

The same hand is suspected to be back of all these events that have made Southside gamblers and racketeers uneasy since the beginning of the year.

What is believed to have been a disclosure of some of the fingers of the mysterious hand was the recent arrest of a number of well known white hoodlums in connection with the unsuccessful tavern muscle in.

They were Paul Labriola, Martin "the Ox" Ochs, James Weinberg, and James Barsella, who are now free on bond. Some one or several of these gangsters have been seen at or around the scene of every outburst in the South side underworld this year.

It is reported that Wilcox had refused to carry out orders of Jones, softened up by his May kidnaping, to sell the Labriola gang needed equipment to set up business and share the policy millions.

Underworld insiders claim that the attempted kidnaping or killing of Roe was a job of the Labriola mob, which has also been linked to the $100,000 successful kidnaping of Jones.

The attempt to get Roe was made last Saturday as he left the Boston Club at 8 p.m. After getting in his Cadillac and driving south on Wabash, he noticed, as he approached 47th st., a car trailing him.

Turning east, and speeding up, he was chased to Vincennes ave., where he abandoned his car and made an escape through an alley.

The Labriola gang was supposed to have been in the car chasing Roe's machine.

Police conduct in the Wilcox killing, as in the preceding events, has been baffling. Capt. Thomas Alcock, of Wabash avenue station, appeared at the inquest into Wilcox's death and sought a continuance on the grounds that police needed more time for an investigation. They were given until Sept. 24.

Lt. Kinzie Blueitt was charged by local newsmen with impeding their investigation of the Wilcox killing by denying them admittance to the elaborately set-up Boston Club over the dead man's shop.

After a few hours Blueitt relented. However, at the time newsmen wanted to enter the gambling den, they said it was evident the place was occupied.

The policy wheels have not been turning since the South side gangland-style shooting of the late James M. Ragen Sr., the racing news czar. The connection between the two is not evident to those not in the "know."

Policy King, Kidnap Victim, Closely Guarded in Mexico

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

By SAM LACY, AFRO Staff Correspondent Sat.

MEXICO CITY—Eddie Jones, prominent Chicago sportsman and erstwhile policy king, who several weeks ago was given his freedom only after kidnapers had collected a reputed $100,000 ransom, has taken residence here in a closely guarded building just one block from Chapultepec Park. Unconfirmed rumors are that the Joneses, Eddie, his brother, George and their mother, do not intend to return to the United States, certainly not to Chicago. 7-13-46

Chicago Underworld Machine Ousts Joneses; Black Top Man

The Afro-American Baltimore

CHICAGO—(ANP)—The Jones brothers, living just now in seclusion in Mexico City, have been declared out of the combination of racketeers, politicians and police officials who rule the netherworld here.

Reuben Black, well known sportsman, who for a number of years has been credited with conducting two of the better known policy wheels, is said to have been named the new arbiter.

Black is a quiet, self-effacing man who, in his earlier years in Atlanta, Columbus and Cleveland, O., was known as a crack insurance salesman and executive. Coming to Chicago, he fitted quietly into "the syndicate," and developed a reputation for ability, sagacity, and attending expertly to his own business.

Expose Would Be Shock

His simple taste is exemplified in the Ford sedan he drives in comparison to the lavish automobile retinue of the Jones brothers. The underworld is said to feel that Black will rule wisely and equitably.

An expose of the truth about Chicago's gambling and policy rackets would shock the nation. Influential politicians are elbow deep in the lucrative game—reportedly an important factor in city-wide control of the Democratic machine. Its ramification into major phases of colored American activities is said to be unbelievable.

Possible Gang War Seen Brewing In Kidnapping Of Policy King

Chicago Defender
Sat. 5-18-46

AWAITS WORD

The kidnaping of Edward P. Jones, accepted head of Chicago's vast policy racket, by four masked gunmen last Saturday as he pulled up in front of the home of one of his employees, still remains a mystery as the family and police await possible ransom notes.

It revives memories of a series of like incidents in New York several years ago when the late Dutch Schultz prepared to move into Harlem and take over the numbers game. Prior to the invasion there were several visits to the big wigs of the numbers game to talk things over. The Schultz henchmen are known to have offered to take over the racket peacefully.

Police records report Schultz as having told his men: "Settle it peacefully if you can and if not go all the way. We want the business and are going to get it. It's too big for those guys in Harlem to handle. They need organization and protection which is what we are going to give them."

That Harlem's policy kings and queens were unwilling to give up their lucrative businesses without warfare is shown in the kidnapings that followed. Several operators were taken for rides, given instructions, and then permitted to return to their homes.

Protection Racket

In the meantime Harlem had its own gang, headed by one of New York's best known Negro leaders of the underworld. This organization composed entirely of Negroes was not interested in policy or the numbers; it had its own business: that of self-imposed protection for legitimate places in the district. The leader and his henchmen visited such places, and informed them that they needed protection from holdups which their organization would supply.

"And for this service," the leader would say, "You will put one of our men on your payroll" at prices ranging from $75 to $150 per week, depending on the size of the business. Taverns, grocery stores, most of which were headquarters for playing numbers, all came under this collection.

With the arrival of Dutch Schultz came new ideas for cashing in and the "Protective Association" offered its services. The leader called a meeting of numbers operators to be held on a certain night on Lenox avenue near the old Cotton Club. The operators, knowing the dangers of a Schultz invasion, were ready for anything and all willingly attended the meeting.

MRS. LYDIA JONES

Wife of Edward P. Jones, who is awaiting word from abductors of her husband Saturday night. Although no ransom demand has been made, the Jones family has expressed a willingness to meet with an intermediary for his safe return.

Deal Refused Sat. 5-18-46

When the meeting opened they listened attentively and most of them agreed that something should be done. They felt that the leader of "Protection, Inc." was their best bet. They went into a huddle and agreed that such service would be worth $150 weekly, to be prorated among the various operators. This the leader of the association turned down. He wanted $250 weekly with an additional $50 weekly for two of his ace men. The operators balked, saying this was too high and nothing came of the offer.

Then the Schultz mob moved in and took over. They ran the various businesses from the back rooms with the operators serving as managers at salaries of from $250 to $300 weekly. Many of the businesses remained at their daily "take" standard while others jumped up to two or three times the normal intake. All this money went to the invading mob with an occasional bonus of a few dollars to the operators.

Police are working on the theory that this may be the pattern in the Jones kinaping case. He is credited with being the big name of the policy game here in Chicago despite numerous other businesses he controls. He would, in their opinion, be the most likely victim of a snatch warning. Sat. 5-18-46

With the usual close-mouth policy among gamblers, police have been unable to establish proof that this is the first of an attempt to move in on policy and its fruitful $10,000,000 annual take. But they do know well that even the old syndicate, which they charge was once operated by the late Billy Skidmore, is no longer in existence despite numerous attempts by gangland to muscle in.

Another theory gained in talking to gambling-wise individuals, the cops say, is that Jones may have been taken because of his failure to "pay off" according to demands. They say he was known in gangland circles as a top man who took all and gave up too little even under pressure. Police lean to the suspicion that his failure to comply with some of gangland's requests for funds for some of their members who were in trouble, may have been the cause of the kidnaping. In either event the Jones' case is, in many ways, similar to what took place in Harlem. What happened to Big Joe Isom, Alex Pompez, the late Art Cashmire and others who were driven from the game adds weight to the idea.

ED JONES

Chicago Policy Baron Openly Paid Off Cops, Clerk Relates

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md
Sat. 9-28-46

CHICAGO — (ANP) — That Edward P. Jones, South Side policy king, openly paid off policemen in his variety store was revealed in court, last week, by Miss Alice Mullin, 28-year-old cashier who is on trial on a charge of stealing $1600 from the store.

The money the cashier was accused of having taken was allegedly left in the currency cage by Charles Craig, said by Miss Mullin to be a collector for Jones' policy wheels and handbooks.

Miss Mullin testified that once she had seen Jones take out a sheaf of bills and give them to an officer standing in the store, and that another time she saw him give $200 to a squad car officer.

Paid Officers Often

These squad car payments happened on several occasions, she asserted. The officer who was paid off in the store was in uniform, she said.

As for the $1600, Miss Mullin declared she had no knowledge of the money left by Craig on the date mentioned in the indictment. She said several other employees had access to her booth.

Roe's partner, Earl Wilcox, was mysteriously "bumped off" only recently and Roe reported that an attempt had been made to kidnap him.

Stop Getting Mad • Get Smart • VOTE

Policy King Flees Gangland's Guns

The Defender Chicago, Ill
Sat. 10-19-46

Finding little comfort in the whole clan to go

ing last May.

Though insiders claim Jones has no intention of disclosing the names of those who snatched and held him until he forked over $100,000 ransom, it is typical for gangsters to rely only on "death" as insurance against disclosure.

Reported to be leaving Chicago with Jones are his brother, George, his partner in the policy racket; his wife, Lydia, and their children, and his mother, Harriet L. Jones, in whose name Ben Jones operate the Franklin department store on 47th st.

Evidence that Jones is planning a permanent change of address is the reported disposition of several pieces of Chicago property, including a six-flat building at 4724-26 S. Michigan ave., and a three-flat building in which the mother has made her home at 4747 S. Michigan ave., chief Jones lieutenants in Chicago and farm properties near Hinsdale, Idlewild and Three Rivers in Michigan where they have entertained their friends in lavish splendor in the past.

The mother, who has had no connection with the racketeering over except as a beneficiary of her sons' largess, is reported to be to be in hearty accord with the operation exodus.

"Why shouldn't we leave," she quoted. "My boys have made all the money they need, and I don't like the way they're being pushed around."

Because it is impossible for Michigan ave., chief Jones lieutenant, will carry on in the absence of the bosses.

At the other end, Earl Couzens, Detroit friend, is said to be helping Jones get reestablished in the Canadian city.

Ontario.

Chatham,

In Canada—

Detroit—

just across the river from

Jones, it is reported, expects to be safe from the gangland guns that he feels are constantly trained on him to prevent his divulging the details of his sensational kidnap-

KID

By JOSEPH

(The views expressed in t

The Courier Pit

BECAUSE the melodrama commanded the front p displayed a peculiar misunde believe that the policy king n members of his race as a figure of awe-inspiring prestige. Law-abiding and respectable colored citizens have been subjected to questioning and grilling aobut the affairs of Ed Jones, by white people in stores, banks, interracial meetings, and, in truth, wherever the members of the white and darker Americans have gathered, the topic of discussion has been the mysterious affairs of the glamorous Jones.

Mr. Bibb

Innocent - acting Caucasians have evidently proceeded upon the premises that all of those unfortunates who are indentured as colored Americans, by the same token are devotees of gambling rackets and worshippers at the shrine of the overlords of the underworld.

• • •

IT MADE no difference whether you were a consecrated minister or a well established businessman, a dignified lawyer or an eminent physician, the white folks, with amazing brass and effrontery, would say to you, "That's too bad about our friend, Ed Jones." It appeared to be taken for granted, by the whites, that all colored people are automatically classified and catalogued with those who have intrigued the morbid fancies of the reading public by way of subtle, illegal schemes and shining stacks of ill-gotten gold.

Quite a few department stores have lost valuable colored customers because the clerks and managers presumed that, because of their race, they were the associates and confreres of the policy king. When the wife of a wealthy and famous physician was asked by a thirty-dollar-a-week clerk if she were a friend of the Jones boys, she replied, "Are you and your wife the friends of Al Capone, Loud Mouth Hymie and the gangsters of Chicago?"

White Americans appear to be utterly oblivious to the social stratifications among their colored fellow citizens. Even if the ultimate in the evolution of the democratic process does not admit of it, there are class distinction, caste system and different social levels among the colored Americans. We know of some elite and fashionable sets among our people so ultra exclusive that it would be unthinkable, not only for the policy king, but for the scrambling rabble of whites to enter.

There are countless thousands of respectable colored people who frown upon the activities of the Jones boys and hold them in contempt and disdain.

• • •

WHILE there is a giddy element of colored people who have perpetuated the myth that the millionaire racketeers are legendary creatures, the majority of the people have deplored a political and economic system that has made possible the acquisition of power and wealth at the expense of the ignorant and superstitious masses. Neither the Jones boys, nor any of their associates, nor the incomparable Joe Louis have become the leaders in constructive thought and action. But like Capone, Lefty Louis, Arnold Rothstein, Nick, the Greek and Dutch Shultz, the dark-skinned moguls and magnates of the racket world have had their followers.

Our misguided and confused youth have been dazzled and intrigued by the lurid tales of the heroes of the underworld. The "sporting fraternity" has been mesmerized by the knowledge of easy money. But the solid and staunch, good colored citizens, know about Jones and his boys only by what they read in the papers.

It will be conducive to sound understanding and straight thinking for white people to comprehend here and now, that the kidnapping of Jones was considered by the average colored citizen as just another incident in the ordinary course of hectic, American life. Newspapers which played up the tragedy and the drama in the sordid affair, merely pandered to the morbid desires of their readers. Little was learned that would be of interest to those concerned with better race relations and finer citizenship.

Policy King To Make Home In Canada

World
Memphis, Tenn.
Fri. 10-18-46

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Rumors were circulated here last week that Edward P. Jones, multimillionaire policy king, plans to make Canada his future home.

Reasons given are that Jones, who was kidnapped here last spring and released after payment of $100,000, fears another kidnapping and possible clashes with white gangsters.

His obductors are regarded as the most vicious hoodlums in the snatch business and have kidnapped such tough gangsters as Jack Guzik, Chicago's Number 1 gambling overload since the abdication of Al Capone, and the late Jimmy "Sawed Off" Fire and three other persons who never dared report them to the police.

Realizing he has no organization to protect him from such a vicious mob, Jones is reported to be unloading all his properties here. He recently disposed of his large estate in Mexico City and is trying to sell his six-flat building here at 4724-26 South Michigan, where he lived and a three-flat building occupied by his mother at 4747 South Michigan Avenue.

TO SELL PROPERTIES

His Ben Franklin novelty store as well as properties in Idlewild and Three Rivers, Mich., will be sold along with a farm on Route 66. His friends, Earl Couzens, a Detroit policy operator, is said to be helping Jones ready an estate in Chatham, Ont., just across the river from Detroit.

Jones' policy racket affairs will be in the hands of Theodore Roe, who has served as his front man for sometime. Roe also was threatned by the kidnap gang but appears les frightened than his boss.

Moving spirit of the decision to leave here is reported to be his mother, Mrs. Harriet L. Jones, who probably is thinking about the recent mysterious slaying of Earl Wilcox, policy wheel manufacturer. Wilcox was killed by gangsters, reports indicate. *World*

"Why shouldn't we leave,' Mrs. Jones queried. "My boys have all the money they need, and I don't like the way they're being pushed around. *Memphis, Tenn.*

George, a brother associated with Ed in the racket, will accompany the family to Canada, which includes Ed's wife, Lydia and their three children. *Fri. 10-18-46*

N.C. Minister Sentenced to Road Gang for Attempted Intimacy With Daughter

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 10-19-46

Pair Found Parked on Highway; Girl Given Six Months, Placed on Probation Two Years

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Found guilty of attempting to be intimate with his daughter (incest), the Rev. John Walker, Methodist minister from Burlington, was sentenced on Oct. 8 to serve two years on the roads.

The daughter, Miss Henrietta Walker, was given a six-month jail sentence and suspended on good behavior for two years during the hearing in Recorder's Court, Judge Henry A. Whitfield, presiding.

Both have appealed their cases and are out under bond until the December court session.

Found Parked on Road

The two were arrested by Highway Patrolman Robert R. Thomas, who found them parked in the minister's automobile on the Greensboro highway.

Although both denied guilt, the daughter, according to two other patrolmen, admitted being partner to the criminal act. Later she stated that she had forgotten what happened the night of the arrest.

Two physicians, one of them [illegible] testified that their examination of the daughter after the arrest indicated that attempted intercourse might have been in progress.

The minister, Patrolman Thomas said, stated at the time of the arrest that he and his daughter were returning home from Holly Creek Church, where he had conducted services during the day.

Several character witnesses appeared on behalf of both Miss Walker and her father, who said that he had been a minister since 1931.

16 1946 Indiana

Missing Kansas Child Found Safe And Maid Charged With Kidnap

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Mon. 9-9-46

Woman Admits Taking 'Toby' Tobias From Her Home; 'I Loved The Little Girl And Wanted Her For My Own,' She Declares

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Sept. 9—(AP)—Three-year-old Madeline (Toby) Tobias, missing for four days from her Kansas City home, was found unharmed today in a farm house near Terre Haute, and a woman who gave her name as Mildred Everett was arrested on a kidnaping charge.

Chief of Detectives Robert Vance said the woman admitted kidnaping the child from the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Tobias, where she had been employed as a maid.

Vance quoted the woman as saying: "I loved the little girl and wanted her for my own."

* * *

OFFICERS WENT to the Elmer Funkhouser farm and found the child after Funkhouser came to police headquarters this morning and said he had seen newspaper photographs of the little girl and was sure he had her in his home.

Vance said the Everett woman was found later in a Terre Haute home where she had obtained employment as a housekeeper.

Vance said the woman told him she arrived in Terre Haute last Friday, having hitch-hiked here with Madeline.

Vance said the woman told him she turned the child over to the Funkhousers over the week-end, telling that the child was her own and since she was unable to care for it they could adopt it.

Vance added the woman told him she had used the name "Mildred King" when she obtained employment in the Tobias home recently.

Police Chief Forest Braden said the woman and the child would be held here pending arrival of authorities from Kansas City.

Indiana state police had been searching for Madeline and the maid, having been informed the maid might be making her way toward Ohio.

The maid and the child had been reported seen last Friday entering a green sedan at Collinsville, Ill.

Braden immediately reported discovery of the woman and child to Harvey Foster, agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Indianapolis. Foster said the description tallied with that of the Tobias child.

* * *

THE CHILD HAD BEEN MISSING for four days from the Kansas City home of her parents, and the father, an ex-service man now employed as a salesman for a small loan company, had offered his life savings of $200 as a reward for the safe return of brown-eyed, blonde Madeline.

Meanwhile, the parents boarded a chartered plane in Kansas City this morning for Indiana.

Smiling, but showing signs of the long wait for word of the little girl, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Tobias carried packages containing fresh clothing and a new doll.

Earlier in the day the mother had talked with her daughter by telephone.

Accompanying the parents were Mrs. Ben Hurst, Mrs. Tobias' mother; Lt. Charles Welch, in charge of the police homicide squad, and Lester W. Kircher, chief of detectives.

* * *

BEFORE HE LEFT, Chief Kircher said he was informed that the maid was in custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Terre Haute. The woman, he said, had identified herself to officers as Mildred King.

Police Sgt. Clyde Davidson disclosed the maid may be the same girl he questioned a week before the father picked her up on a street corner as a hitch-hiker and hired her because his wife "desperately needed" a housekeeper.

Davidson said the girl was picked up and questioned about living with a Negro woman but was released after insisting she was part Negro. The Tobias, however, expressed doubt she was a Negro although they agreed she was dark-complexioned.

OFFICERS SAID THE NEGRO WOMAN identified clothing left at the Tobias home as some she had given the girl, whom she said she had known as Mildred Green. The maid had given the name of King when hired by Tobias only three weeks before her disappearance with their only child.

Lottery Writer Fined $250; Racket Called Purse Drain

Courier Journal Louisville, Ky. Thurs. 8-8-46

Assistant County Attorney Charles Peyton charged in Magistrate Herman Jorris' court yesterday that lottery operators are draining an enormous amount of money from Louisville's Negro population.

Prosecuting a woman accused of lottery writing, Peyton said adults who regularly play the numbers game "deprive their children" of food and clothing.

$500 Fine Asked.

Attorney M. D. Elston, representing the defendant, countered with the theory that people are going to gamble and patronize lotteries, regardless.

"Not if all the lotteries are closed," said Peyton.

"Then," replied Elston, "they will patronize handbooks."

Peyton argued for a $500 fine the woman, Mrs. Edna Britt, 48, Negro, 507 S. 11th, but Elston said $100 "is even too much."

Jorris, noting the arrest was the woman's first, assessed a fine of $250 and costs after charges of operating a lottery were amended to gambling in general.

Followed By Detective.

She was arrested three weeks ago after Deputy Constable Hubert Stillwell followed her from her home for several days and saw her get on a Jeffersonville-bound bus. She admitted she was a writer for the Green House, a North Side lottery.

Thurs. 8-8-46

A charge of operating a lottery against Thomas Johnson, 52, Negro, 1114 W. Walnut, was continued.

"Just routine police business," Major Doyle said yesterday. "Some of the boys were sticking their heads up too boldly and we decided to do something about it."

Doyle's boss, Col. Carl E. Heustis, police chief, is on vacation, and Heustis' boss, Safety Director Joseph A. Murphy, said:

"Police were given no specific orders to close places because of the election or anything else. Major Doyle an dsome of his officers went out Saturday night, as they do every Saturday night, and circulated around. They closed games up when they found them."

Taylor Gave No Orders.

Murphy gets orders from Mayor E. Leland Taylor but, according to the latter, has received none to close up Negro gambling for political or other reasons beyond normal police activity.

Three Negro me nwho apparently hadn't heard of the gambling lid were arrested yesterday on lottery charges. They were listed by police as Wesley Clayton, 50, and Herbert Clayton, 37, both arrested at 665 S. 12th, and Tom Johnson, 52, arrested at 1114 W. Walnut.

Elsewhere in the city, two men were arrested on handbook charges. They were booked as William Brooks, 26, at 1157 S. 32d, and Alton Dossett, 42, at 758 S. Preston.

Courier-Journal Photo.

ROVING lottery writers are questioned by Deputy Constables W. T. Ebbs, Negro, seated, and Hubert Stillwell, standing at right. The defendants are Mrs. Edna Britt and Thomas Johnson.

Police Clamp Lid On Gaming In Negro Wards

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky. Wed. 11-20-46

'Only a Coincidence'

It Came After Election

Virtually all Negro gambling in Louisville was shutdown yesterday. But, according to the City Hall, it is only a coincidence that this occurred just after the Democratic Party took its worst election beating in the Negro wards.

The shutdown occurred Saturday night when Maj. Charles Doyle, night chief of police, and other uniformed officers raided a dozen nice games, lottery houses, and card games along West Walnut and side streets.

'Just Routine,' Says Doyle.

Lottery Writer Admits Taking Slips Across River

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

By PAUL BULLEIT.

The "Rock House Stomp" and the "Green House Blues" were wailed by two lottery writers yesterday, but deputy constables rose above the din to discover why one of the writers took daily bus trips to Jeffersonville.

The excursionist, a Negro woman, admitted to officers she didn't ride the bus over the Municipal Bridge because she liked to watch the boats in the Ohio River. She told them she toted lottery slips to the Northside for Green House and Rock House lottery drawings. Wed 7-24-46

Woman Arrested at Home.

The woman, Mrs. Edna Britt, 48, was arrested at 11:30 a.m. yesterday at her home, 507 S. 11th. Deputy Constable Hubert Stillwell said Rock House and Green House lottery slips were confiscated. She was charged with operating a game of chance.

At the same time, Deputy Constable W. T. Ebbs, Negro, arrested Thomas Johnson, 52, Negro, at his home, 1114 W. Walnut, on a similar charge. Johnson also possessed Rock House and Green House numbers.

Johnson and the woman said they worked for "bosses" in Jeffersonville. This caused officers to speculate whether the city and county's large lotteries—fearful of recent arrests and large fines—have folded their tents and crept across the river to safer quarters.

Moving of Slips Is New.

The Green House lottery has been in operation in Jeffersonville for many years. Its customers are Louisvillians. The transporting of Rock House slips to the Northside city is something new, officers said.

Last week two men charged with possessing Falls Cities House lottery slips were fined $50 and costs by Magistrate Herman Jorris. Earlier, the operator and employees of the Maroon House were fined $1,800 in Quarterly Court, and several weeks ago the operator and employees of the Square Deal House were indicted by a grand jury.

Mrs. Britt and Johnson will be arraigned before Jorris at 11 a.m. today.

The Commission Is Busy

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga. Sat. 11-16-46

Fulton County's Commissioners provided interesting reading at their most recent session.

At the urging of Commissioner I. Gloer Hailey, the county will go vigorously into the matter of a stadium in which high school games, church pageants and so on may be staged. We think Mr. Hailey is right and deserves popular support.

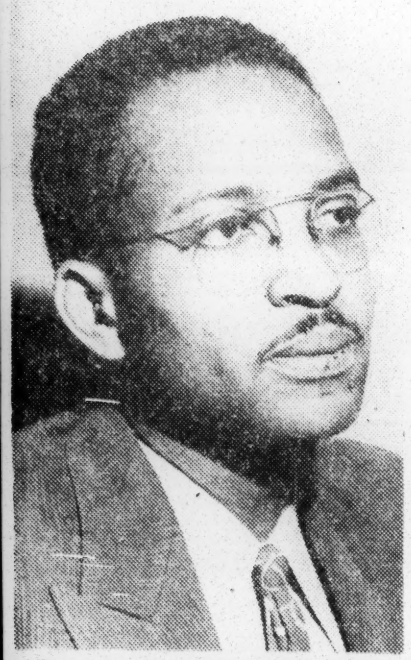
A bit shocking was the revelation that the head of the Sanitary Department had been carrying on a semi-loan agency with Negro employes and charging high interest rates for bails provided Negroes who are unfortunate enough to be arrested. This sort of situation often leads to arrests, if the bail business becomes profitable enough, and the Commission is fortunate to have halted what might have grown into a racket. May we suggest that the possibility of such evils existing in other departments employing Negro labor be looked into?

Chairman Hailey also is to be commended for his vigorous stand against the effort being made to have the county build and maintain a juvenile training school. This is properly a State responsibility and the State has assumed it. If the counties take over a part of the responsibility, it will lead to duplication in taxes and effort. The establishment of the present temporary school was authorized to care for an emergency until the State could add to its buildings. The Juvenile Courts had more than 100 boys who were sentenced to such a school. The fact they have not been sent to the temporary school is a rebuke to the officers and the court which asked for a temporary school.

Louisville Negro Held Here in Kidnaping Case

—Photos by Clark and Schofield.

Johnnie Williams (second from left), young Louisville Negro, awaited removal to Louisville today after a Louisville Negro doctor leaped from a car at Madison, handed a county patrolman the switch key he had snatched, and charged that Williams kidnaped him and commandeered his auto last night. Left to right are County Patrolman G. B. Cummings; Williams; County Patrolman Edwin R. Ray, who was directing traffic near Stratton School when Dr. E. M. Hubbard, Jr., leaped from the auto; Sgt. Dave White of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and Sheriff Garner Robinson.



DR. E. M. HUBBARD, JR.

County Police Raid Lottery House On Westport Road And Grab Number Slips From Blazing Furnace

Man With Hoe Threatens C.-J. Photographer; Chief Orders Men to Find Party Who Gave Tip

By PAUL BULLEIT

County police yesterday won a race with fire.

Their speeding patrol cars arrived at a large, white house on Westport Road, eight miles from Louisville, in time for patrolmen to shovel a few lottery slips from a blazing furnace.

A man who said he was in charge of the house was arrested, and the "Maroon House," one of Jefferson County's largest lotteries, began to crumble.

Tip-Off of Raid Given.

Although preparations for the raid had been carried out in secrecy, there was a tip-off somewhere down the line. When police led by Maj. Fred Hauler drove into a driveway through the spacious lawn, thousands of numbers slips had gone up in flames.

A man who later gave his name as William Benton, 29, was standing in the yard clad in nothing but shorts and shoes when police arrived. Belligerently he demanded to see a search warrant. It was shown to him by Hauler.

Threatened With Hoe.

Stepping from the automobile in which we had followed the police cars, Courier-Journal Photographer Charles E. Darneal snapped a picture of Hauler and Benton as they talked. A moment later Benton picked up a garden hoe and advanced on Darneal and me. We retreated. Patrolman Morris Evans, standing near, ordered Benton to drop the hoe. Benton dropped it, but he said:

"I've got a baseball bat that will smash that camera."

"Yes," replied Evans, "and I've got a .38 here that will smash you."

Capt. L. H. Snyder, Assistant County Prosecutor Charles Peyton and Hauler began to search the large, two-story frame home. Snyder found a large coal furnace blazing with paper. Assisted by Evans and Patrolman Earl Holloway, they shoveled out burning remnants.

Benton Apologizes.

On some of the slips were printed large numbers. In equally large type on the sheets appeared the word, "Maroon." A few of the sheets were printed with green ink. On these was the word, "Harlem," presumably a companion lottery of the Maroon House.

Snyder told Benton he was under arrest and ordered him to put on his clothes. Benton apologized to Darneal and me for losing his temper.

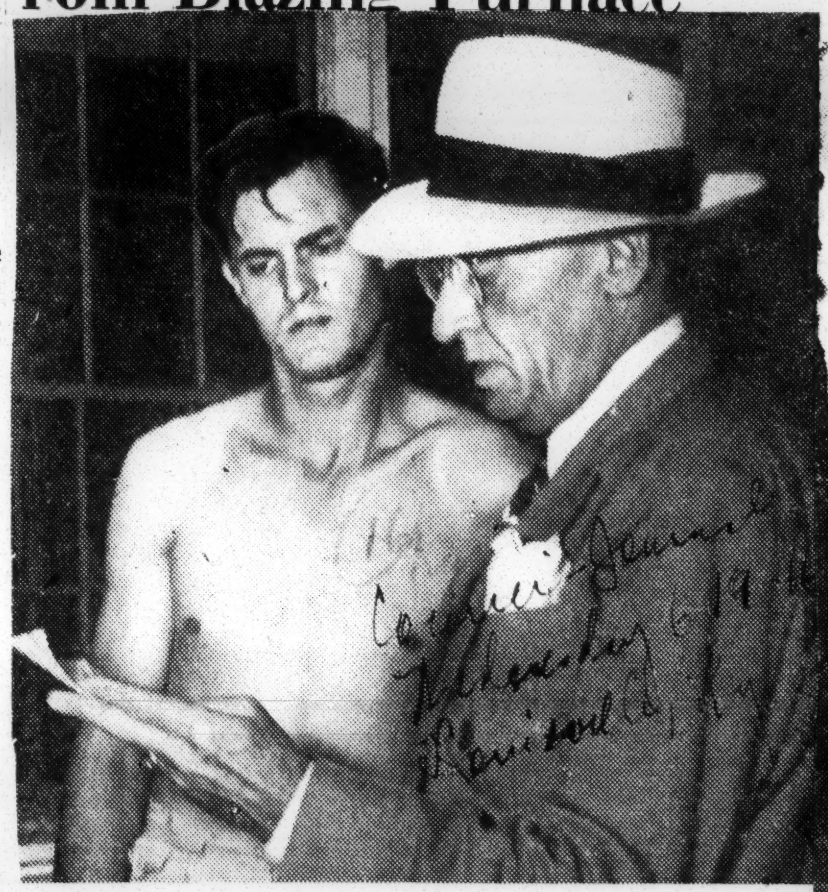
"It's bad enough to have this story in the newspapers, let alone a picture," he said.

Benton was charged with violation of a Kentucky statute which prohibits the operating of a lottery.

Back at headquarters, Police Chief Tom Dover ordered police to find the "dirty . . . (censored) . . . who tipped off Benton the raid was coming."

Four Arrested Week Ago.

The raid followed the arrest a week ago of four Negroes. Police, stopping the men's speeding automobile on Shelbyville Road, found lottery slips and $115 in bills and silver in a bag. The slips bore the word, "Maroon," and "Harlem."



SEARCH WARRANT is read to irate William Benton, who was arrested on a gambling charge. A few seconds later Benton went at the photographer with a garden hoe. He threatened to smash the camera and a jaw.

WESTPORT ROAD home which was raided by police led by Major Hauler. A large poker table and chairs were found in the attic. Police searched the rooms under protest of the man in charge.

18 62 53. 64 57 15 10 69 29 50 54 60
MAROON 513 OFFICIAL
10 15 18 29 50 53 54 57 60 62 64 69

HERE'S A LOTTERY SLIP SIMILAR TO [illegible]ED FROM FURNACE

Courier-Journal Photos by Charles Darneal.

The men told Hauler at the time they were employed by Courtland K. Dillon. The name, C. K. Dillon, was painted on a mail box in front of the Westport place.

The men gave their names as Irvin Pennick, 213 Jane; Charles H. Lee, 1522 W. Chestnut; John Breckinridge; 1128 rear Zane, and John Allen Lake, rear 1310 W. Madison. They were charged with vagrancy, possession of gambling equipment and with being common gamblers. Their cases are set for tomorrow in Quarterly Court.

Benton was freed an hour following his arrest under $150 bond provided by Professional Bondsman Jack Stry.

County Judge Horace Barker said he and police had been laying plans for the raid ever since last Tuesday's arrests.

"We had no idea a lottery was operating there until a week ago. We've closed all the other gambling houses in the county," he said.

The partly burned paper was given to F.B.I. authorities for examination.

Two weeks ago City police arrested John "Snow" Walker, 47, Negro, operator of the "Square Deal House," another large lottery. Cases of Walker and three aids arrested at the same time are set for tomorrow in Police Court.

CHARRED REMNANTS of lottery slips snatched from a blazing furnace are examined by Assistant County Police Chief Fred Hauler, Assistant County Prosecutor Charles Peyton, and Police Capt. L. H. Snyder.

Numbers Games Plentiful, But Only Operators Ever Get Rich

By PAUL BULLEIT, Courier-Journal Staff Writer

PRODDED by dreams of sudden wealth, thousands of Louisvillians pour thousands of dollars each week into money bags hung in back rooms of cafes, dives and private residences.

These secluded rooms are the substations of the city's numerous lotteries, clearing houses, policy houses and other types of "houses" which prosper by these dreams of quick fortune.

Fortunes are being made, it's true, but they are being made by the operators of these numbers rackets who drain nickels, dimes and quarters from the gullible public. It's just a guess as to how much cash is syphoned into the bulging pockets of these operators, but estimates set the figure from $500,000 to $1,000,000 annually.

All Are Money-Makers

There are various forms of numbers games, but all are money-making ventures. They'll continue to make money unless the playing public gets wise, and this is improbable.

There is, for instance, the Green House, Maroon House, Square Deal, Rock House, Harlem House and Falls Cities House, all among the larger lotteries. Although patrons largely are Negroes, most of the top men are white.

There are at least 600 persons employed by Louisville lotteries, and during the course of a year about 30 per cent are arrested. Although Kentucky statutes prohibit such gambling and set penalties up to $5,000 in fines and five years in prison, virtually all charges are amended to disorderly conduct and small fines imposed.

Let's accompany one of the customers who daily plunks down 10 cents for a lottery ticket at a typical substation.

We walk into a residence on a side street near the down town section of the city. A men greets our customer friend, Joe "This-is-my-lucky-day" Doakes.

"Hullo, Charlie," says Joe, "I believe I've got it today."

Charlie hands Joe a pad of paper with a carbon between the first and second sheets. Joe writes down the numbers 47, 22, and 69, or any other numbers he fancies. He gives it back to Charlie, and Charlie tears off the two sheets. He gives Joe one, and Joe gives Charlie a dime. We walk out.

Chances Are Very Slim

You see, this particular lottery which Joe helps support has two drawings each day. The substation he patronizes is one of many spotted here and there close to the downtown district. The lottery operates with numbers from 1 to 78.

In the morning and late afternoon, drawings are held at a secluded spot. The only witnesses are a few lottery employees. The numbers are placed in 78 quills and deposited in a sack or a revolving drum. From these sacks or drums the winning numbers are drawn.

Joe is lured on by the belief that someday his three numbers will be drawn. If he studied mathematics, he would know his chances are thousands upon thousands to one.

If, by some quirk of fate, Joe should win one day, he would be given about $20 for his dime investment. If he took a splurge and invested $5 for three numbers, he would win about $1,000. But Joe, no doubt, will remain poor all his life.

The three-number play is most popular, but there are other methods to bet. You can bet a nickel and pick five numbers. You would then receive about $2.50 if any three of your numbers are drawn.

Operators of substations get 20 or 25 per cent of the "take" during the morning and afternoon drawings. The house gets the rest. Houses holding drawings can make their drawings as crooked as they like. They can't loose.

The Square Deal lottery, which obtains its winning numbers from the mutuel numbers of winning horses in three races at a specific track, probably is the most honest in the city. The winning numbers may be found by doubting Thomases through official sources.

Employes Protected

One house here obtains numbers from the last three numbers of the stock sales total for the day in the financial page of a daily newspaper. This method also is classed as honest.

All operators protect their employees by furnishing bond and paying fines in case of arrests. The only other expenses are for salaries, gasoline, cheap paper and pencils.

Some house employees are door-to-door salesmen. They call at the houses of regular customers with the query, "Any numbers today, lady?"

Police know the top men of all numbers rackets here, but proving charges against them would be a difficult matter. Lesser employees are sometimes caught with lottery slips and money, but courts and grand juries have been reluctant to impose stiff penalties on these defendants.

Suspect In Lottery Case Is Parolee Using Alias

Other Houses Reported Closed By Investigation

The plot thickened yesterday in the case of the Maroon House lottery on Westport Road. Here are the day's developments:

1. Police records show William Benton, 29, arrested at the Westport Road house Tuesday used an assumed name. Benton is Forrest Parks, 29, a LaGrange Reformatory parolee, released April 8, 1940, after serving a term for robbery, records disclosed.

2. Several other large lotteries, including the Green House, which draws its numbers near Jeffersonville, Ind., were reported closed "until the heat's off."

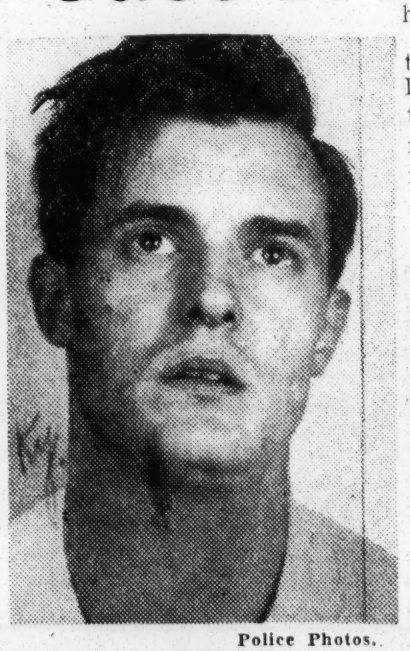
'Big" Arrest Reported Delayed

3. The expected arrest of the "big man" in the Westport Road lottery failed to materialize. Assistant County Police Chief Fred Hauler said, however, a warrant would be taken out today or tomorrow.

4. Gambling charges against Parks, alias Benton, and four Negroes were postponed to July 22 in Quarterly Court yesterday as police continued an investigation.

Records show Parks was indicted July 1, 1938, after a series of arrests beginning in 1936, for implication with a companion in a $71.20 robbery of a service station. He pleaded guilty to the charge October 5, Criminal Court records show, and was sentenced to 10 years. Seven years were probated.

1936



1946

Police Photos.

FORREST PARKS, alias WILLIAM BENTON

Record to Be Probed.

Frank Ropke, Commonwealth's attorney, said he would investigate Parks' record and his recent arrests under the name of William Benton.

Gus Heicken, district supervisor of parolees, said he was preparing information in Parks' case to be sent to the State Parole Office at Frankfort.

Heicken said Parks made monthly reports to his office during the year 1940. His files showed Parks received a letter April 15, 1941, notifying him he was no longer required to make monthly reports.

Warned Against Violations.

"You are still liable to return, however, if you violate the parole," the letter said.

Fingerprints and photographs in the City Police Department Record Room revealed Parks and "William Benton" to be the same man. During his arrest Tuesday and the arraignment yesterday, "Benton" attempted to hide his face with a handkerchief when photographers took pictures of him.

The Westport Road home is that of Courtland K. Dillon. Dillon was not at home when County police raided the place and retrieved burning lottery slips from a furnace in the basement.

Police confiscated slips which bore the name, "Maroon," and others on which were printed, "Harlem."

Lottery Case To Be Taken To Grand Jury

Gambling evidence against John "Snow" Walker, 47, Negro politician and gambler, and three of his aides will be taken before the grand jury, probably today, police said yesterday.

Police Court Prosecutor Foster DeWees said he advised Police Capt. George McAleese to seek grand jury action after charges against the four men were filed away in Police Court.

Police Judge Homer C. McLellen, refusing to hold the cases to the grand jury, said he doubted the legality of the arrests because officers did not have a search warrant when they raided Walker's place, the Globe Amusement Company, 508 S. Sixth, June 4, and confiscated lottery slips.

Claims Warrant Not Needed.

DeWees contended, however, that police did not need a search warrant because they had "reasonable grounds to believe a felony (operating a lottery) was being committed."

William Schwankhaus, attorney for the four, said they would "be glad to pay $50 each" on amended charges.

DeWees, declaring, "You probably would be glad to pay $500," asked Judge McLellen to file away the charges rather than assess a fine "if you hold the arrests were illegal."

Slips Found In Car.

Walker is operator of the Square Deal lottery, one of the city's largest. Arrested the same day were Floyd H. Stewart, 31, of 823 Clay, Leroy Spears, 38, of 506 S. 11th, and Alzanie Elizabeth Moorman, 38, of 521 Finzer.

Patrolmen J. H. Wareing and E. L. Ammon arrested Stewart and the Moorman woman in the 1100 block South 12th. A search of their automobile disclosed lottery slips. The two told McAleese they worked for Walker. Spears was arrested at the Sixth Street place, and Walker when he went to City Hall to ask about the arrests. Police confiscated $337 in a bag at the Globe place.

Louisville Takes Cue From Chicago Policy Crackdown

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Following closely upon the heels of the crackdown on policy in Chicago, this city's $500,000-a-year numbers racket was under the spotlight as police arrested John "Snow" Walker, politician and juke box boss.

Walker, 47, was arrested on charges of operating a lottery when he went to City Hall to protest the arrest of three of his henchmen being held on similar charges.

His arrest, Tuesday, was due to "unscrupulous" operators of smaller numbers games who are "trying to get a foothold" in his business.

"About 15 per cent is spent on ...er, pencils. Walker re... is set aside ...ees and at... ...es us about ...

...ling to pay ...he privilege ... Walker as... ...erted.

16 1946

Maryland

Woman Indicted in Kidnaping Case

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE

Formal indictment on kidnaping charges was returned, Wednesday, by the grand jury, against Mrs. Anna Stokes, 31, of 674 W. Saratoga St., who reportedly abducted an eight-week-old infant from his carriage because of her desire to have a baby.

During a preliminary hearing in Northeastern police court, last week, it was revealed that the woman had talked with family and friends about wanting a baby, and later padded her figure to indicate she was expectant.

An estranged wife, Mrs. Stokes, reportly told her sister on Friday, June 14, that she was going to have a baby soon and summoned her to John Hopkins Hospital on the following Monday.

Feigns Motherhood

She, allegedly, telephoned her sister on a pay phone from there, asking her to come and get her, because she had just given birth to a child.

Relatives found her at the door of the hospital where she met them with a large baby, dressed in a soiled diaper and thin shirt.

In another part of the city, at the same time, Mrs. Virginia Holland, 17-year-old mother, was frantically searching for her infant son, whom she had left in a carriage outside of a Gay St. store.

Mother Recovers Child

After Policewoman Carolyn Robinson entered the case, Mrs. Holland went with a cousin to see a new born baby, and upon arrival discovered her missing child. She left immediately and notified police. Sat. 7-6-46

The infant dressed in clean clothing and bathed, was identified through a blue birthmark on its left ankle.

Mrs. Stokes had fled when police arrived, but surrendered the next day, through her attorney, Joseph Rosenthal, white. She made no statement at the preliminary hearing.

Mourned Infant, Kidnap Victim

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Shown seated is Mrs. Virginia Holland, 17-year-old mother whose infant, 7 weeks old, was abducted from its carriage outside a Gay St. department store in Baltimore, Monday. She is being consoled by her mother, Mrs. Fannie Coleman. John Holland, 21, father of the missing babe, is a city employee.

Sat. 7-6-46

16 1946 Michigan

40% of Detroit's criminals are Negroes

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 10-26-46

DETROIT—Almost 40% of the 8,663 persons arrested and held for prosecution here during the first 9 months of 1946 have been Negroes, police department statistics disclosed last week.

In analyzing the statistics, the Detroit Tribune (Negro) estimated the Detroit Negro population at 200,000, and declared, "The actual number of Negro criminals, while a high percentage (39.6%) of the total number of criminals, is a small percentage of the total Negro population. Ninety-six per cent of the Negro population . . . is respectable and law-abiding."

The figures also showed that in the more serious categories of crime, 55.5% of those held for prosecution were Negroes, with whites making up 44.4%, and all others, one-tenth of one per cent. In these, the record showed more Negroes arrested than whites for murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and larceny-theft, while whites were more active in manslaughter by negligence, burglary, and auto thefts.. Of the less serious crimes, Negroes accounted for 38%, whites for 61.4%.

Miss. Lynch Posse Traps Negro Families in Swamp

Daily Worker 8/20/46

Tues. New York, New York

Southern lynch violence against Negroes flared out again yesterday, when a Mississippi posse of 300 officers and civilians, with a pack of bloodhounds surrounded a swamp near Magee, where 17 Negro men, women and children were in hiding. Ten have been captured.

The United Press reported that Smith County Sheriff Glynn Hester and four other officers were shot when they surrounded the house of a Negro family named Craft, that had been accused of an alleged altercation with whites.

After the exchange of shots with the deputies, the Crafts and their neighbors the Hubbards and the Coopers fled into the near by swamp; and the deputies returned to Mize and began organizing a posse that soon set out behind baying bloodhounds

L. T. Hubbard, friend of the Craft family was the first to be captured. He was wounded by a fusillade of posse gun fire.

W. O. Craft and Albert Craft, Jr., 11, were then found and beaten into submission.

Four members of the Cooper family. Oliver J. W., Horace, and Luther were the next captured, followed directly by the capture of John, Bill, and Garfield Craft. Mobs are reported to be gathering in the vicinity.

The hastily organized posse was lead by State Police Chief C. R. Bradley who grimly told the men, "We're going in after them. We're going in to bring them out."

No immediate charges were filed against those captured. There has been no report of what happened to the women of the three families.

the criminal division, instructed United States Attorney Taxey Hall, at Jackson, to confer with the sheriffs directing the manhunt. Jues 8-20-46

Caudle told Hall to instruct the sheriffs that "orderly processes of law should prevail at all times."

Seriously wounded in the ambush last night were Deputy Sheriff Gleen Hester, of Smith County, and Gaston H. Sullivan, cafe operator, of Mize.

The wounded man, L. T. Hubbard, was seized this morning at the home of the Negro Craft family where the ambush occurred last night. He was removed after treatment, presumably to Mendenhall. Jues 8-20-46

Town Marshall Ellis Bishop identified the other prisoners as W. O. Craft and Albert Craft, Jr., brothers; and five Cooper brothers, J. W., Oliver, Horace, Lee and Luther.

Bishop said the Coopers were being held "for questioning," but he expected charges to be filed against the Crafts.

He declared W. O. Craft was armed with an Army rifle and Albert, a 12-year-old boy, had a .22 rifle. Jues 8-20-46

Mayor O. J. Biglane said the Crafts would probably be taken elsewhere for safekeeping. He described the situation here as "comparatively peaceful" but "triggery."

Sheriff George C. Hawkins, of Smith County, said Johnny and Garfield Craft, war veterans believed armed with Army carbines, were still in the swamp along with several other Negroes.

Posse Formed

The posse was formed last night after a deputy sheriff, a city marshall and two special deputies were struck by shotgun charges as they approached the home of the Negro Craft family. The officers had gone to investigate a report that a Negro had fired upon a white motorist in a dispute on a highway near here.

In Washington today the United States Department of Justice stepped in to assure legal procedures. Assistant Attorney-General Lamar Caudle, in charge of

At Mendenhall, Simpson County seat, Deputy Sheriff Jack Mills said he had been informed one of the men sought had been killed. However, there was no confirmation here, closer to the scene of the hunt.

Bloodhounds led the posse into Sullivan's Hollow, swampy, wooded scene of old-time feuds, on the line between Smith and Simpson Counties. Officers of the two counties, about 25 State policemen and scores of citizens took part in the hunt.

Seeks $11,000 Bond

Youth Group Aids Vet; Escaped Miss. Mob

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 9-14-46

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Funds are urgently needed to put up an $11,000 cash bond to obtain the release of Johnny Craft, 21-year-old marine veteran, and his brothers, who are now in the Hinds County jail, Jackson, Miss. Johnny and two of his brothers, Garfield and W. O. Craft, are charged on eight counts of "assault and battery with intent to kill."

Johnny Craft, his brothers and fourteen other Negroes were arrested following a twenty-four-hour armed assault upon their county near Mize, Miss. During the shooting, four white deputy sheriffs and possemen were wounded. Following the shooting a mob of more than 200 armed men, with bloodhounds, and led by the sheriffs of three counties, hunted through the swamps for the Crafts and their neighbors, the Coopers. All of the Negroes were captured but Johnny Craft, who eluded the mob and walked sixty miles through the swamps to surrender to the sheriff at the Jackson jail.

CLAIM INNOCENCE

Evidence uncovered by investigators for the Southern Negro Youth Congress and supported by the Jackson, Miss. daily paper, The Clarion-Ledger, reveals that Johnny Craft and the other Negroes held for the shooting of the members of the so-called "posse" are innocent of having shot any of them, and that the four white men were shot by a white planter and his nephew on whose plantation the Craft family lives. The planter, H. J. Sullivan, has been arrested and charged with wounding Glenn Hester, Smith County deputy sheriff, and he has admitted to being on the scene of the shooting when the mob attacked the Craft cabin.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress, which is conducting the defense of the Craft boys, the youngest of whom is 11-year-old Albert Craft Jr., has issued an urgent appeal for funds in order to free these boys on bond and to defend them in the courts.

The SNYC has issued an appeal for an immediate sum of $11,000 needed for bonding out the Craft boys. Checks and money orders and all contributions should be made out to the Johnny Craft Defense Fund, Southern Negro Youth Congress, 526 Masonic Temple Building, Birmingham, Ala.

Eight Held as Posse Pushes Search for Men in Ambush

Jues 8-20-46

(MAGEE, MISS., Aug. 19—(AP)—Eight men had been captured tonight as a posse pushed the search for a group of Negroes wanted in connection with the ambush wounding of four white men.

One of those captured was wounded as he attempted to escape. There was no other resistance, although at least two of the captives were reported armed.

HOLD 3 WHITES ON KIDNAPING CHARGES; TOOK NEGROES FROM COUNTY FOR QUESTIONING

The Black-Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla. Sat. 11-2-46

Charge Two Men With House-Breaking; Kidnapers Free On Bond

HAZELHURST, Miss. — (ANP) — Under the charge of kidnaping a bunch of Copiah county Negroes and carrying them out of the county" for an alleged questioning concerning a housebreaking incident, a private detective, a Jackson, Miss., a justice of the peace and a Copiah county merchant, all white, were arrested here last Tuesday and bound over to Copiah county grand jury.

According to Sheriff R. L. Mil- ler, Dan Goodwin, private detective, was arrested on warrants sworn out by victims on charges of kidnaping and carrying a con- cealed weapon. Goodwin is said to have posted a $5,000 bond on the charge, said Griffith called him last Sunday and asked that he get home to investigate a Negro who had entered Mrs. Griffith's bedroom. Going over the house with "the detective, Bell said they encountered a Negro who lived nearby while Goodwin, when his voluntarily answering questions put to him by Goodwin, was pointed out by Mrs. Griffith, both charged with kidnaping and both released on bond.

Bell, claiming innocence of the Negro was said to have been making their investigations. The brother came up. The man's was in my room."

The second man walked away and Goodwin called to him. Here the man is said to have drawn a knife but did not open it, surrending the knife instead to Goodwin, who alleged he found wisps of wire on it similar to those of a screen in the Griffith house which had been cut the night before.

Goodwin. is then said to have called District Atty. E. C. Barlow at Brookhaven, in adjoining Lincoln county, and received instructions from the district attorney to bring the two men over for questioning. In Brookhaven, Bell said Barlow questioned the two men and later swore out an affidavit on which the second Negro was arrested for house-breaking and entering. Black-Dispatch Okla

The two men were returned to Copiah county jail in Hazelhurst where they subsequently swore out affidavits which resulted in warrants issued for the arrest of the three white men. Sat. 11-2-46

Mississippi Frees Boy of Shooting Charges

The Afro-American

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi apparently has decided that it would be going too far in holding a 12-year-old boy for punishment in the recent Craft shooting incident, and has released little Albert Craft Jr. from jail. Sat. 9-7-46

Meanwhile, four of the older non-white participants are still in custody. They are W. O. Craft and Johnny Garfield, veterans, held on charges of assault and battery with intent to kill; and T. J. and Bill Craft, held as material witnesses. Baltimore, Md.

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 8-31-46

NEGROES DIDN'T SHOOT THIS DEPUTY—Deputy Sheriff Glen Hester of Raleigh, Miss., is comforted by his wife in a Magee, (Miss.) hospital, where he is recovering from wounds suffered in a gun battle in the feuding grounds of Sullivan's Hollow. The sheriff and three other white men believed they were shot by Negroes, but it later was brought out that colored Mississippians were not involved in the shootings. Ten of the twelve Negroes arrested have been released from Jackson, Miss., jails.—INP.

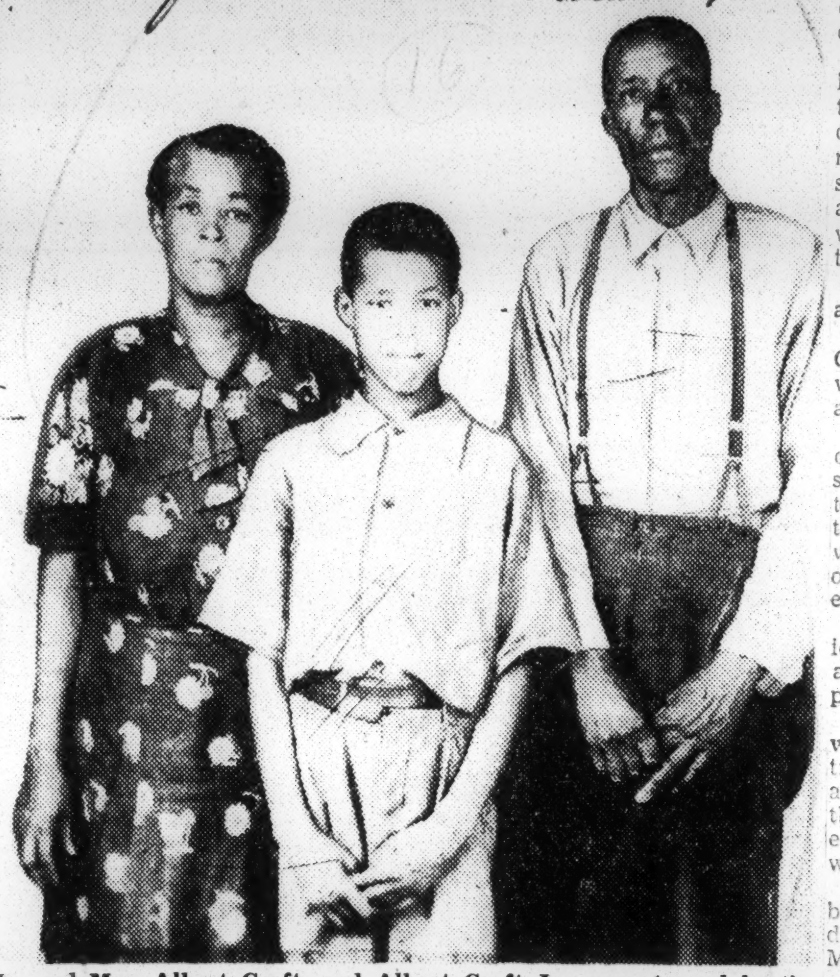
13 Released After Miss. Manhunt Ends

Defender Chicago, Ill. 16

One Negro Held Without Bond On Four Secret Charges

They Suffered at Hands of Miss. Mob

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Craft, and Albert Craft Jr., parents and brother of Johnnie Craft, principal in Mississippi's now famous mob hunt Johnnie, a Marine veteran and former drill instructor at Camp Le Jeune, N.C., is now faced with a possible 40 years in the State Prison He is being held on four charges of asault and shooting with intent to kill, each charge carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years. Johnnie says that the only time he shot during the time when the mob was shooting up his parents' home was when his brother, Albert, ran out into the opening, exposing himself, and he fired to divert the attention of the mob from him. Sat. 8-31-46

JACKSON, Miss. — In a startling departure from usual Dixie police methods, all but one of 14 Negro men and boys arrested in a recent wild, posse-mob manhunt through the woods and swamps near Magee were released early this week.

Johnny Craft, 22, marine corps veteran, and E. W. Chapman, white, were held in connection with the incident which touched off the Negro hunting party, a much distorted night gun battle between white deputies and unknown parties while the deputies were searching for a Negro, who had become embroiled in an altercation with a white man. The gun fight, in which four of the deputies were wounded, took place near the Craft homestead, a rickety cabin on the farm of H. J. Sullivan, 69 year old white farmer and Craft landlord.

Sullivan and his nephew, Herbert H. Sullivan, 19, were also released on bonds of $1,000 and $500 respectively. The elder Sullivan was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill Smith county Deputy Sheriff Glen Hester, shot in the abdomen. Ten of the Negroes were released on bond and three without bond as material witnesses to the gun affray, described by some as the result of a feud among white farmers.

Chapman was held because he could not make bond, but Craft was held without benefit of bond on four undisclosed charges. Prejudice against him has increased since discovery of the picture of a young Sullivan Hollow white girl in his billfold.

The arrest of Sullivan was first interpreted locally as official confirmation of the stories told by the Craft brothers that they did not fire the shots Saturday night, that injured four peace officers.

Upon his return to the capital, Acting Governor Field Wright who visited Smith county during the height of the man hunt reported "we have found no element of racial tension in Smith county. Negroes and whites mingled and talked freely." Defender

He also took the opportunity to criticize the NAACP that had urged the governor to intercede to prevent a possible lynching. Wright in a note to Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, said "organizations such as yours should acquire true facts of incidents before beating the drums of racial propaganda."

These last minute developments indicate that original reports of the incident were not entirely accurate since it was strongly intimated that the Crafts and possibly the Coopers, five brothers apprehended along with the Crafts were responsible for firing upon the peace officers. Chicago, Ill.

Original report of the affair was as follows:

Saturday night, Aug. 17, Johnny Craft, a Marine veteran, and a white man became embroiled in an altercation in Magee.

Later the same night as Craft, other members of his family and some friends were returning to their home in Sullivan Hollow, the truck in which they were riding was blocked by an automobile load of whites who seemed bent upon evening the score.

A passenger in the truck, unidentified to date, fired into the auto load of whites and they promptly sped away.

Familiar with the temper of whites in the area and sensing trouble, the Crafts, after arriving at their home, kept a steady watch that was rewarded with the eventual appearance of a mob of white men. Sat. 8-31-46

Taking no chances, some persons barricaded inside the Craft residence, opened fire wounding Town Marshal Wilson Dickerson, Deputy Sheriff Glen Hester, Oree Ainsworth and Glaston Sullivan.

Afraid of bringing harm to other members of the samily, some of the Craft brothers and Coopers left the home after the mob retired temporarily. A posse of several hundred men, armed with firearms and bloodhounds was immediately organized and set out on a manhunt.

Captured during the early hours of Monday morning were the Coopers, J. W., Horace, Oliver, Lee and Luther, and two of the Craft brothers W. O., and Albert Jr.

Sullivan Hollow Negroes Get 10 Year Sentences

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-23-46

RALEIGH, Miss. — All four Negro defendants, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill in the confused Sullivan Hollow gun battle, last week were given the maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

The lone white defendant, however, held on the same charge, was granted a continuance. All the Negroes were sharecroppers.

Found guilty by an all white Smith county jury after a two-week court period, were Johnny Craft, 22-year-old ex-Marine, accused by whites of being the "ringleader" of the group which was hunted by a white posse for two days; L. T. Hubbard, only Negro wounded during the shooting; and W. O. and Garfield Craft, ex-G.I. brothers of Johnny.

Bond in each case was set at $1,000, pending an appeal by defense counsel. The white defendant, Harvey Sullivan, on whose place the Crafts stayed, who also is charged with assault and battery with intent to kill, was granted a continuance at the request of his attorneys.

Four whites were wounded in the shooting episode, sadly months-old to have involved deputies and

citizens on one side themselves up, and later 15 were released. Only Sullivan, the Craft brothers and Negroes and Sullivan on the other. Race crazed law officers Hubbard were left. are said to have fired on the Craft cabin as they approached to question Johnny about firing in the earlier dispute with some 300 whites. Craft eluded the group and went to Jackson, where he surrendered at the Hinds county jail. The other Negroes gave

Defender Chicago, Ill.

Mississippi

Boy, 12, Among 7 Jailed After Miss. Manhunt

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 8-31-46

These are the youngsters whose lives hung in balance all day Monday in Magee, Miss. where armed posse of 300 sought them. They gave up to deputies after the Sullivan's Hollow had been visited by Toxey Hall, assistant U.S. District Attorney, and Acting Gov. Fielding Wright of Mississippi, and were brought to jail in Hinds County, Jackson, Monday night. They are (left to right, standing) Oliver Cooper, 32; W. O. Craft, 19; Lee Cooper, 32; Luther Cooper, 16; kneeling, J. W. Cooper, 13; Horace Cooper, 32, and Albert Craft, Jr., who celebrated his 12th birthday Thursday in jail. The officer is Marshal E. J. Bishop, of Magee. The older Craft boys are veterans. All are among 14 sought following a high way dispute between colored and white youngsters.

Clerics, Teacher Beaten; Girls Attacked in Reign of Terror After Miss. Manhunt

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. 8-31-46-Sat.

Investigation Proves Fear of Changed Order, Veterans' Demands Prompt Wave of Violence

By SAMUEL HOSKINS
Staff Correspondent

JACKSON, Miss.—A wave of racial antagonism and violence, directed primarily at ex-service men and colored citizens, and following fast on the heels of Bilbo's pre-election hate campaign, is spreading throughout Mississippi.

This was revealed by a State-wide investigation over the week end extending from the northern part of the State, where veterans are being barred from driving cabs, to Smith County, in the southern part, where a mass lynching was narrowly averted last Monday.

Only the quick action of the Justice Department and organizational pressure from the North, it was found, prevented another massacre.

As near as can be determined, these acts of violence are based on:

1. **Resentment a certain element of the white population exhibits toward veterans;**
2. **Determination of politicians to keep colored citizens from the polls;**
3. **An effort to stop the activities of labor organizers, chiefly those of the CIO, among employees in State industries; and** The Afro-American
4. **The effort of the Ku Klux Klan to stage a comeback in the State.**

Topping the flare-ups was the Smith County incident which led to the shooting of four law officers, the arrest of 14 colored men and boys, as well as two white men, and the beating of a minister, a school principal and his wife. Baltimore, Md.

Vets on Defensive

The shooting occurred Aug. 18 in a district known as "Merry Hell Ridge" in Sullivan's Hollow, about 11 miles outside of Magee, Miss., where, according to residents, anti-colored sentiment has always been the worst in the State.

The trouble dates from the previous Saturday night, when Johnnie, 21, and Garfield Craft, World War II veterans, reportedly resisted attempts of a recently deputized special officer, Fal McAlpin, to beat them up.

It was stated that McAlpin and four or five white men again tried to drag the Craft brothers from a truck late Sunday afternoon, but were repelled when one fired a shot. Sat. 8-31-46

Shot Back in Defense

That night a carload of officers and deputized white citizens came to the Crafts' home, on a farm managed by Harvey J. Sullivan, about four miles from Mt. Olive, and, without warning, began shooting into the house.

After 15 or 20 rounds had been fired into the house, according to Mrs. Rachael Craft, mother of 11 children, Johnnie, a former Marine, returned fire with a shotgun and four attackers were wounded.

Aided by White Farmer

According to later reports, Mr. Sullivan, white, also joined the fight on the side of the colored family.

The wounded men are:

Sheriff Glenn Hester of Smith County, City Marshal Gaston Sullivan of Mize, Miss., and two "special" deputies, Will Dickerson and Oree Ainsworth.

All four were reported improving over the week end.

Following the shooting, the Craft brothers, who had been joined by J. W. and Oliver Cooper and two other neighbors, fled to the woods, reportedly carrying shotguns, rifles, an Army (M-1) rifle and a carbine.

Lynching Rumors Bring Action

Immediately a posse of armed whites from Smith, Covington and Simpson Counties, as well as units of State troops, began combing the section. Tension was high and there were reports that the men would be lynched if caught.

However, Assistant U.S. Attorney General Lamar Caudle wired U.S. Assistant District Attorney Toxey Hall to see that the law was observed, and Walter White of the NAACP sent a similar message to Acting Governor Fielding Wright.

It is believed that this action prevented lynching of the men, and Acting Gov. Wright and two assistants, as well as District Attorney Hall and an assistant, made a personal survey of the scene.

All Give Selves Up

Sheriff George C. Hawkins reportedly was told that if there were a lynching it would be impossible to claim that the perpetrators could not be identified.

14 Out on Bail, 3 Held

Later, all of the accused men either gave up to individual deputies or journeyed to Jackson and surrendered at the Hinds County jail.

Johnnie, said to have been the leader of the group, gave up Tuesday after ringing the jail bell and announcing, "I'm Johnnie Craft. I want to be locked up for safekeeping."

Members of the Craft family arrested include the following:

Albert Sr., 56; Bill, 27; Garfield, 24; T. S., 23; Johnny, 21; W. O. 19, and Albert Craft Jr., 12. (The youngster, confined to jail at the time, reached his 12th birthday on Aug. 22.)

Also arrested were Lee, Horace, J. W., Oliver and Luther Cooper, and L. Hubbard, all neighbors.

Clearic, Principal Beaten

All but three of the group were released on bond on Aug. 24, District Attorney O. O. Weathersby announced. Also relased under $1000 bail was Mr. Sullivan, who was charged with assault with intent to kill.

Those held in jail were Johnny Craft, vehicle as it passed through Magee.

Those held in jail were Johnny of armed men who stopped their

Further, it was reported that principal of the Clinton

angry posse beat up at least two days at a hospital in Clinton,

colored residents in the neighborhood of "Merry Hell Ridge" Mr. Johnson suffered wounds three white men were confined

ring Monday and Tuesday. On which required three stitches and by T. C. Campbell, justice of the peace, for attempted rape

esday night, the Rev. R. E. Mrs. Johnson was slapped when peace, after attempted rape girls outside while holding guns on them by two girls on their 40-year-old aunt.

niels, Methodist minister of she yelled to the men, armed with charges against them were fined $10 fired at the men when they were en route to 24, Collins, and Oscar Moore, 18, charges of "cre-

nton, Miss., Prof. A. P. John- rifles, not to kill her husband. Training School, of Bassfield.

Father Shoots at Men

All were arrested after the girls' citizens' group called a protest meeting was the beating about 10:30 and 11 p.m. the previous Thursday night. The minister said his daughters had retired for the night when the men arrived and he was at a church meeting.

Beating of 2nd Cleric Protested

In Hazelhurst, Miss., a mixed

rge Reduced

in Collins, Miss., father, the Rev. Estes Barnes, were fined $10 fired at the men when

ell, justice of the entered his home and forced the

Attack Charge Reduced

On Thursday in Collins, Miss., Mr. Daniels was

Wife Slapped for Protesting

Mrs. Johnson was where she is a teacher.

Scott, pastor of the AME church

in Hazelhurst.

The Rev. Mr. Scott reportedly was saved from a severe beating when two unidentified white men intervened as a local police officer, angered because he had been asked to move up in a parking lot, cursed and beat the minister while he was still in his automobile.

The opinion of those present was to the effect that unless colored citizens could be assured of better protection there was no other alternative than to leave the State.

Cross Burned in Jackson

A cross was burned the night of Aug. 23 near the intersection of Woodrow Dr. and Whitfield Rd. in Northeast Jackson.

In its Aug. 23 issue, the Jackson Daily News carried an article which stated that it had been rumored for two or three days that a cross would be burned because of CIO activities in the city.

There are two or three organizers known to be working among colored people the article declared.

Posse Hunts Mob Ringleader After Mississippi Shooting

News & Courier Charleston, S.C.

Tues 8-20-46

Magee, Miss., Aug. 19.—(U.P.): Eight members of a negro band wanted for the shooting of four peace officers were caught today, and a grim shotgun-bristling posse tonight set up a tight trap for the trio of gunmen who remained at large.

John Craft, a youthful marine corps veteran described as "ringleader of the mob," and his two brothers, Garfield and Bill, were the prey as hundreds of volunteers joined state police in the dragnet.

At first, officers thought that the trio was still on the loose after eight of the lead-spitting band were apprehended. Then they switched and said that only John remained at large.

Tonight, however, a quiz of the captured men disclosed that John, armed with a high-powered G. I. rifle' and perhaps wounded, and Bill and Garfield, with shotguns, remained in the murky swamp area.

The entire band had engaged in two wild shooting duels with police before the capture of the eight today. One of the eight was wounded and taken to Jackson. The other seven were first lodged in the Magee jail and then taken tonight to nearby Jackson for safekeeping.

Tues 8-20-46

Then tonight, the search narrowed down principally to the Crafts. State Police Chief C. R. Bradley personally took charge of the we-mean-business posse. Lieutenant Governor Fielding Wright also was on the scene.

The search for Craft centered tonight in a cotton patch of a swamp section known appropriately as Merryhell. Possemen brandishing shotguns moved across the field crouched and ready, infantryman style.

The town of Magee, meanwhile, was alive with tension as seven of the eight captured negroes were lodged in jail, as yet uncharged. The eighth was taken to an unnamed jail after being treated for a wound.

The sought Craft was believed by police to be wounded, and officers quoted one aged negro as having seen Craft around noon. "He looked very tired and scared," the negro said.

As the grim manhunt progressed, four men wounded last night when they went to investigate a shooting spree by the negroes, lay in serious condition in the Magee hospital.

Smith County Sheriff Glynn Hester received a report about 7 p. m. Sunday that negroes were riding up and down Highway 20 near here, shooting and yelling. White passengers in one of the cars reported the disorder.

Hester called Mize City Marshal Gaston Sullivan, hurriedly deputized two townspeople, Will Dickerson and Oree Ainsworth, and went to investigate.

The negroes were waiting for the officers in a dwelling near the swamp country and when they came within range of their shotguns, pulled triggers to loose a withering barrage. All four men dropped in their tracks, but one of them managed to drag his companions out of firing range and to their car.

A hospital report said one of the men received a point blank charge of shot in an arm and it may be necessary to amputate it.

When reinforcements arrived some time later, the negroes had melted into the swamps where they knew every inch of muggy trail.

The posse was personally commanded by State Police Chief C. R. Bradley, who called his men together in this sleepy crossroads town and gave them their instructions.

Meanwhile, United States District Attorney Toxey Hall was telephoned at his Jackson, Miss., office by the justice department in Washington and ordered to leave for the scene of the manhunt at once.

Hall was ordered to "go to the seat of the trouble, contact the sheriff immediately and tell him the orderly process of law should prevail in every instance".

The justice department also telephoned the Mississippi governor, asking his executive secretary to help insure that the law prevail.

First to be captured was L. T. Hubbard, friend of the Craft family, who had joined with them in the fighting along with several other outsiders. Hubbard was wounded in an exchange of gunfire with state troopers who made the capture. He was removed to an unnamed jail for safekeeping.

W. O. Craft, direct member of the fighting family, was next to be subdued, and a boy member of the party, Albert Craft, Jr., 11, was next.

Tues 8-20-46

Four members of the Cooper family, Oliver., J. W., Horace and Luther, were caught late in the afternoon when they returned to the area of the first shooting last nifht.

None of the posse was reported injured during the swampland search, although the area took on the appearance of a miniature Pacific battleground.

Chief Bradley said the negroes were using military type rifles which they procured from an unknown source and were "armed to the teeth" when they entered the swamp.

In the early hours of the search, Badley said he was "almost sure they were within hearing distance".

He said he called to the negroes and told them to come out, "that they would be protected".

His voice only echoed through the vastness of the desolate swamp. It was then Bradley gave the posse the command to march.

Second Negro Rioter Tried In Race GunBattle

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Tues. 11-5-46

One Of Quintet Charged With Firing At Sheriff In Mississippi Manhunt

RALEIGH, MISS., Nov. 4.—(AP)—The second of five assault cases arising from the last August gun battles between white men and Negroes in Sleepy Sullivan's Hollow got under way quietly here today in Smith County Circuit Court.

A jury was selected before Judge Homer Currie in the case of L. T. Hubbard, Negro charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, and attempted murder, in connection with the firing upon Sheriff George Hawkins during a manhunt in the hollow.

A score of Negroes was rounded up in the hunt, following a gun fight at the home of a family of Negroes named Craft. Four white officers were shot and wounded in the battle, and the Negroes escaped temporarily into the woods.

Case Awaits Voting

The Hubbard case was made ready for taking of testimony after court reconvenes tomorrow at 10 a.m. Judge Currie set the opening hour for court back one hour, to permit talesmen to visit the polls and vote in tomorrow's general election.

He said he would not release the jury to vote, because there is no opposition to the Democratic nominees in Mississisppi.

The case of Garfield Craft, a former army man and one of four Negro defendants, was called today prior to the Hubbard trial, but was delayed because of the absence of important witnesses.

Another of the Craft brothers, Johnny Craft, a former Marine, was convicted on a similar charge last week and is now awaiting sentencing.

The Advertiser

Johnny was described by officers as the "ringleader" of a group of Negroes who participated in the gun battle on the night of Sunday, Aug. 18, when the white men went to the Craft home to investigate a firing of a gun by a Negro on a road that afternoon.

Two other cases awaiting trial are those of W. O. Craft, another of the Craft brothers, and Harvey Jack Sullivan, white farmer residing on the tract next to the Craft homestead. All are similarly charged. Tues. 11-5-46

Demurrer Overruled

Just before adjournment of court today, Judge Currie overruled a demurrer filed on behalf of Hubbard, alleging that the indictment illegally set forth two offenses (1) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, and (2) attempted murder.

Judge Currie ruled the charge within the law which allows only one offense to be brought under a single Mississippi indictment.

The jury which will hear the Hubbard case is composed of twelve white farmers. Little interest is expressed in the cases by townsmen of Raleigh, and there are practically no spectators in the courtroom, outside of citizens who have business with the court.

Montgomery, Ala.

Negro Vet Convicted On Intent To Kill Count

The News-Age-Herald Birmingham, Ala.

RALEIGH, Miss., Nov. 2—(AP)—A Circuit Court jury late Saturday convicted Johnny Craft, Negro ex-Marine, of assault and battery with intent to kill in connection with a night gunbattle in Sullivan Hollow last August, in which four white men were shot and wounded.

The jury of 12 white men deliberated 21 minutes. Sun 11-3-46

Judge Homer Currie, presiding, deferred sentence of Craft until later. He indicated cases of four other defendants, three Negroes and one white farmer, would be called for trial next week. All are similarly charged.

2 SEIZED NEGROES CHARGEKIDNAPPING

New York Times

Three Mississippians Held for Taking Pair From County in House-Breaking Inquiry

New York, N.Y.

HAZLEHURST, Miss., Oct. 22 (AP)—Sheriff R. L. Miller said here today that a private detective, a Justice of the Peace of Jackson, Miss., and a Copiah County merchant had been arrested and charged with "kidnapping a bunch of Copiah County Negroes and carrying them out of the county."

Sheriff Miller said that Dan Goodwin, Jackson private detective, had been arrested on warrants charging kidnapping and carrying a concealed weapon, and had posted a $5,000 bond on the first charge and a $250 bond on the latter. Wed. 10-23-46

Sheriff Miller said Justice of the Peace J. B. Bell of Jackson also had been arrested on a kidnapping charge as had J. N. Griffith, whom he identified as a Copiah County merchant. Both have made bond.

Sheriff Miller refused to divulge any details, but said he expected to issue a statement tomorrow.

He sai dthat the men were being held for the Copiah County grand jury, which meets here the first Monday in November.

Justice of the Peace Bell said in Jackson today that he was innocent of all charges. He declared that Mr. Griffith called him Sunday and asked that he get in touch with Mr. Goodin and request him to come to the Griffith home to investigate a break-in the night before in which a Negro entered Mrs. Griffith's bedroom.

Mr. Bell said he took the private detective to the Griffith home where Mrs. Griffith described the Negro who had entered her room. Later, he said, while a Negro living nearby was voluntarily answering questions asked by Mr. Goodwin, the Negro's brother walked up. As he did so, Mr. Bell said, Mrs. Griffith called out, "that's the Negro that was in my room."

Mr. Bell said the second Negro began to walk away when Mr. Goodwin called to him. The Negro, Mr. Bell said, drew a knife but did not open it. He said the Negro surrendered the knife and that Mr. Goodwin found wisps of wire on it similar to those of a screen in the Griffith house which had been cut the night before.

Mr. Bell said that Mr. Goodwin called District Attorney E. C. Barlow at Brookhaven, in adjoining Lincoln County, and at Mr. Barlow's instructions, Mr. Goodwin took the Negroes in Mr. Bell's car to Brookhaven for questioning.

In Brookhaven, Bell said, District Attorney Barlow questioned the two Negroes and later swore out an affidavit on which the latter Negro was arrested on charges of breaking and entering a dwelling.

Mr. Bell said that Mr. Barlow returned the Negroes to the Copiah County Jail in Hazlehurst. There, Mr. Bell said, the Negroes swore out affidavits which resulted in the issuance of warrants for Mr. Bell's arrest.

Feudal Conflict Key To Miss. 'Negro Hunt

Defender Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 9-14-46

By JOHN F. LEFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

JACKSON, Miss. — When the truth is finally told about the so-called gun battle of Sullivan's hollow, investigation shows it may reveal that a smoldering feud between greedy white land owners sent a misled, hate-crazed armed mob on a race-war rampage.

Three weeks ago a posse mob of 300 Mississippi whites scoured the swamp area of the hollow near the Merry Hell Ridge sector, chasing frightened Negro prey as if they were rabbits.

Hold Negro Ex-Marine

Johnny Craft, 22-year-old former Marine, now held under $3,000 bond with his three brothers, is charged with being the leader of the Negro "desperadoes," who allegedly fired in the direction of a truck driven by white youth on a highway near Mize, Miss.

One version of the race hunt relates how the white youth sped into Mize to spread the news of the Negro attack. Town Marshal Wilson Dickerson, Deputy Sheriff Glenn Hester and two other "deputized" citizens immediately dispatched "law enforcement" to the Craft shanty "to teach the niggers a lesson."

Feudal Conflict

The Crafts live on the plantation of Herbert Sullivan, who has been annoyed by attempts of Drummond McAlpin, another feudal lord, to lure away his Negro farm hands. When learning of surreptitious activity to "take his niggers" he became furious and reportedly vowed vengeance on the McAlpin crowd. The two officers and their "deputized" aides are said to have been fired upon and wounded as they

approached the Craft cabin.

The following Monday morning the "putsch" really got under way. Frightened members of the Craft family and their early morning visitors, the Cooper family, fled to the woods in advance of a 300-man mob, equipped with pistols, shotguns, rifles, knives and bloodhounds.

Federal Agent Blocks Lynching

Closely observing the movements of the mob, an unidentified Federal agent is credited with subduing the lynch spirit of the "hunters," reflected in the shooting of E. T. Hubbard, a Negro visitor to the Crafts, who refused to "halt."

Today, Johnny Craft and his veteran brothers, W. I., 19, Garfield, 25, and Bill, 26, are held under bonds ranging from $2,500 to $3,000. Already released, but technically held as material witnesses are Albert Craft Sr., P. I., 21, and Albert Jr., 12, Oliver, Lee, Luther, J. W. and Horace Cooper, and E. T. Hubbard.

Defender Chicago, Ill.

White Farmer Held

Another version given the Defender from reliable sources points to attempts of "peace" officer Farrell McAlpin to involve Johnny Craft in an autmoobile tire theft, because of the reluctance of the Craft family to move to the Drummond McAlpin plantation. The altercation on the highway was actually between the Crafts and two white men, rather than the white youth. The shooting duel, wounding two deputies, occured at the Sullivan residence, not the Craft cabin.

Sat. 9-14-46

H. J. Sullivan is being held under $1,000 bond on a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill Smith County Deputy Glenn Hester. Apprehension is rife here as to why Sullivan would be held on these charges if the gun battle took place at the Craft home.

Teen-Agers in Mississippi Manhunt for Vets and Families

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 8-31-46

Exclusive AFRO photo shows part of armed posse of 300 as they prepared to go in search for 14 members of three families, including three veterans, in Sullivan's Hollow near Merry Hell Ridge just outside of Magee, Miss., last week. The manhunt followed a highway dispute between youngsters of both races. The posse was composed of State and highway police, farmers and townspeople, as well as children from three counties. Note teen-agers in foreground.

Mother Tells of Mob's Attack on Family of 11

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 8-31-46

By SAMUEL HOSKINS
AFRO Staff Correspondent

MOUNT OLIVE, Miss.—"We had just gotten home from church when a car came up and six or seven men got out. They hollered 'halt' to one of my boys outside and then started shooting into the house."

This is how Mrs. Rachael Craft, 50, mother of 11 children, described the Smith County shooting on Aug. 18, which turned Sullivan's Hollow into a seething inferno and released all the pent-up tensions that have been gathering at "Merry Hell Ridge" since V-J Day.

When the shooting started there were 10 persons in the house, including her sons, one 12, the other 13, a daughter-in-law who is to become a mother in five or six weeks, and four daughters, all under 15 years of age.

Sought Cover

Mrs. Craft said that, with the first volley of shots, fired from rifles, pistols and shotguns, members of the family scrambled for cover. "I got down between the beds and my daughter-in-law, my son Garfield's wife, threw herself under a table.

"Between 15 and 20 shots were fired, splattering across the front of the porch, alongside the door facing and through the walls into the front rooms. I thought we would all be killed."

Mrs. Craft, who has a coffee-brown complexion, about five feet three or four inches tall, and surprisingly youthful looking at 50 was at the home of a relative when I talked with her.

Son Takes Stand

She wore a loose-fitting print dress, an Army jacket (which belonged to one of her sons), and a kerchief with green figures tied around her head.

After the first lull in the shooting one of her sons, Johnnie, 21, who served 29 months in the Marines, came out from his hiding place and said it would be a shame for the entire family to be killed at once.

He got a shotgun and went out the back way and around behind the chimney.

Mrs. Craft was of the opinion that he did not fire more than one shot. Then someone else on the outside joined in the shooting on the side of the besieged family. The men in the automobile withdrew soon thereafter.

Two Whites Arrested

Smith County authorities later arrested two white men in connection with the shooting, H. J. Sullivan, 69, and Herbert Sullivan, 19. The elder Sullivan has since been released on $1000 bond on a charge of assault with intent to kill.

The mother said she could not understand why they arrested her sons, especially Albert, Jr., who was three days less than 12 years old when he was taken to jail. Her sons did not tell her the details leading up to the shooting.

Bully Beats Veterans

But she learned there had been some kind of trouble with Fal McAlpin of Magee, the town bully, who specializes in beating up colored veterans.

The relative Mrs. Craft was visiting supplied the information that McAlpin shot Paul Kempt, a veteran, earlier this summer and ordered him to stay out of town, and that recently, McAlpin was deputized as week-end special officer in Magee.

All members of the Craft family left home after the shooting. "We don't have changing clothes and all our food and household goods are there," the mother said.

Big Crops Forfeited

They left behind a cotton crop of 15 to 20 acres, 30 acres of corn, assorted garden varieties, two mules, a horse, seven heads of cattle, seven hogs and about 30 chickens.

"It's not safe for any of us around here now, and I guess we'll have to leave it all," she said.

Her seven-year-old son and the four girls are the only members of her family she has seen since Aug. 19. During the 24-hour manhunt, Mrs. Craft believed all her sons and her husband would be lynched.

7 Held in Jail

She is the former Rachael Mangum, and has lived in this section all her life. She said her son, Johnnie, accused by authorities of being the leader of the group, has never been in trouble, and was an acting sergeant in the Marines.

Members of the family who were in jail at the time of the interview were:

Albert Craft Sr., the father; Bill, 27; Garfield, 24; T. J., 23; Johnnie, 21; William O., 19, and Albert, Jr., 12. All but the father were imprisoned at Jackson, Miss. Albert, Sr. was being held at Raleigh in Smith County.

g sons and gainst Sullivan, his 19-year-old
ed together nephew, Herbert Sullivan, or any
ob until all of the accused Negro participants.
the neigh- Because many Negroes and whites
to tempor- in this section are closely related,
near Magee. it is believed that authorities will
white mob "go slow" until the investigation
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circulated here this week that an one of their gun-toting
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had engineered and directed "the and fought off the mob
black mob" which was credited women and children in the
last week with having stopped "a borhood had escaped to
white mob" as members of the lat- ary safety in a swamp near
ter group sought to "arrest" a were shot, one of them
World War II veteran for what and following a two-day
was believed to be the purpose of the densely wooded area
lynching. of the Negro mob were
Sullivan, 69, owns a farm near and jailed.
the spot where the Craft family, No charges have been

Arrest White Man As Mob Of Black

Amsterdam News New York, N. Y.

(Special Correspondence)

JACKSON, Miss.—Reports were

16 1946

Mississippi

Last 3 Negroes Hunted By Posse In Mississippi Shooting Surrender

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky
Wed 8-21-46

Total of 14 Now In Jail

Magee, Miss., Aug. 20 (AP)—A tense situation, which had threatened race war in rural Smith County, appeared ended late today with the arrest of the last two Negroes sought in connection with the ambushing and wounding of four white men Sunday in a gun battle.

Garfield and Bill Craft, each recently discharged from the Army, came out of the Sullivan Hollow swamp and surrendered to Constable Alex Sullivan, who took them to Hinds County Jail at Jackson.

Hitchhikes to Jackson.

The two gave up after a search by hundreds of armed deputies and citizen-possemen, presumably in response to an appeal from their mother, Rachel Craft, who went into the woods today looking for them.

Another of the woman's sons, Johnny Craft, an ex-Marine, appeared at the County Jail in Jackson early today and gave up. He slipped out through the heavy cordon and hitchhiked to Jackson.

The apprehension of Bill and Garfield Craft swelled to 14 the number of Negroes held at Jackson either for alleged connection with the trouble or as material witnesses.

No formal charges had been filed against any of the Negroes late today.

Hid Behind Chimney.

Both Garfield and Bill Craft denied any part in the shooting and blamed it on their brother, Johnny.

Garfield told Constable Sullivan that he hid behind a chimney when the shooting started, then fled to the woods. Bill Craft said he had been at his home nursing a headache most of the time.

Wed 8-21-46

No Racial Conflict Involved, Official Says

Jackson, Miss., Aug. 20 (AP)—The Governor's office today advised the U. S. Government and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the manhunt near Magee involved no racial conflict.

The Federal Government was asked to ascertain how the Negroes came into possession of Army rifles and tracer ammunition.

"We found no element of racial tension in Smith County yesterday," the Governor's office said. "Negroes and whites mingled and talked freely."

A second letter to Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., signed by acting Governor Fielding Wright, urged that "organizations such as yours should acquire true facts of incidents before beating the drums of racial propaganda." White earlier had wired Wright that he understood the Negroes were surrounded for the purpose of lynching.

Wed 8-21-46

Wright said further:

"The efforts of agitators to portray every incident in the South involving white and blacks as a lynching or potential lynching can do only harm. We will have no trouble in Mississippi, except that caused by hate engendered through outside influence."

Associated Press Wirephoto.

WELL OF POISON—W. B. Wooten, left, 28-year-old farm worker, and Sheriff Lawrence Tucker are shown in front of the Holly Springs, Miss., jail, where Wooten is held in connection with the poisoning of a well that may have caused the deaths of six persons.

Editor Threatens Negro

BILBOPHILE CALLS FOR LYNCH TERROR

Daily Worker New York 8-23-46

By John Hudson Jones

An open editorial call for lynch violence against a Negro, Robert Durr, editor of the Birmingham Weekly Review, was made by Frederick Sullens, editor of the Jackson, Miss., Daily News.

Mon. 9-9-46

Durr wrote to Sullens requesting that he print the truth about the recent Magee, Miss., incident where 17 Negroes were driven into the swamps and then hunted down with bloodhounds and a posse of 300.

Sullens printed his letter in full with this headline: "An Impudent Letter from Birmingham Negro Editor."

Durr letter stated, **"I know Negroes just don't go about provoking difficulties with white people in the deep South, or elsewhere for that matter."**

Durr demanded that Sullens **"have your reporters got beyond the statements issued by the peace officers."**

"Such investigation might reveal that white men waylaid the Craft folk as they were on their way home from church and provoked them to shoot in what they regarded as self defense against a mob."

Sullens replied, **"Postal regulations forbid the saying of exactly what would be said concerning the imprudent writer of the above letter. It is a safe assumption that Robert Durr is a full-fledged member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Negro Congress and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, all of which are busy butting into local affairs in Mississippi and throughout the South."**

Lauding the mob posse of peace officers, civilians and bloodhounds which hunted down the Negroes as **"deserving the highest praise,"** Sullens then made his call for the lynching of Durr. **"It suffices to say that when race riots are started in this nation, if it happens, Negroes like Robert Durr will be largely responsible and should be the first to receive attention."**

This printed incitement to lynch violence against an individual citizen has no doubt come to the attention of the Justice Department which is supposed to protect the civil liberties of U.S. citizens. If such a statement were made by a Negro in the Negro press, the FBI, postal authorities and the army would swoop down in true SS style. But they won't bother Sullens, just like they aren't bothering the other Ku Kluxers and lynchers.

One of these days it's going to be a crime in this country to attack Negroes and say the things that Sullens said.

Officers Deny Feud Caused Race Battle

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 24.—(AP) A 60-year-old white farmer, H. J. Sullivan, was released under $1,000 bond Saturday in connection with the shooting and wounding of four white officers and one Negro last week-end in Sullivan Hollow racial trouble, which, according to investigating officers, was not the result of a reported feud over wages.

He was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill.

In addition District Attorney O. O. Weathersby of Taylorsville announced that bonds had been fixed for the release of 13 Negroes held in the strong Hinds County jail, at Jackson, as material witnesses in connection with the Smith County outbreak.

Those remaining in custody are Johnny Craft, an ex-Marine and his two brothers, Garfield and W. O. Craft.

They are members of the Craft family of Sullivan Hollow at whose home the four white officers were shot and wounded last Sunday night.

The Crafts are among nearly a score of Negroes rounded up by a posse of several hundred white men and brought to Jackson for safekeeping.

Just what connection H. J. Sullivan had with the shootings had not been made clear. The district attorney said however that the charge against him was brought in connection with the wounding of Deputy Sheriff Glenn Hester in the battle at the Craft Negroes' home.

Weathersby said the trouble started with a shot fired Sunday afternoon by Johnny Craft when Ray Sullivan, a white youth, yelled at the Craft brothers for partially blocking a road with their truck.

The fighting was renewed that night when the four officers went to the Craft home to investigate the roadside shooting.

Officers Studied Weapons

MAGEE, Miss., Aug. 21—(AP)—

Fourteen Negroes were being held in three Mississippi jails today as the state sought to learn where they procured army rifles and tracer ammunition to fight the battle of Sullivan's Hollow.

Jeff Davis, executive assistant to the governor, said late yesterday that the governor's office had conducted an "on the spot investigation" of the Sullivan Hollow am-

RACE SHOOTING DENIED

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 24 (AP)—

Mississippi Papers Says Gun Fight May Involve Only White Men

area threaded with heavy under-

the possibility that all four peace officers wounded in the battle at Sullivan's Hollow were shot by white men rather than Negroes living in the hollow

as been suggested by The Clarion-

growth, is notorious as a feuding ground in Mississippi.

Police have said they believed fired on the peace officers when

Negroes' Posse

The Times Democrat Orangeburg, S.C.

Ledger. The newspaper said that authorities believed the four white officers and a Negro were wounded as the result of "a smoldering feud between white families."

Sullivan's Hollow, a wild, wooded Sullivan's Hollow area, is notorious for the

Jeff Davis, executive assistant to the governor, said late yesterday that the governor's office had conducted an "on the spot investigation" of the Sullivan Hollow am-

bush wounding of four peace officers, and that: "We found no element of racial tension . . . Negroes and whites mingled and talked freely on the highways and streets as they had always done. Our investigation revealed, however, . . . possession by these Negroes of high-powered Army rifles and ammunition . . . we do not know how many rifles or how much ammunition they possessed. But one M-1 rifle and tracer bullets were taken from one of the Negroes captured, and all of the Negroes taken into custody said that those still at large were armed."

Two Negroes, Davis said, had Army carbines.

Later yesterday a posse succeeded in rounding up the last of the Negroes sought. Eleven were jailed at Jackson, two here and one at Raleigh.

The manhunt grew out of the shooting Sunday of four peace officers as they approached the home of a Negro family in Sullivan's Hollow to investigate a report that Negroes had fired at the occupants of a pickup truck east of Magee.

THE WHITE MEN reported the incident to the Mize city marshal whose name was not obtained. He summoned Smith County Deputy Sheriff Glynn Hester, who deputized Ree Ainsworth, Mize farmer, and Glaston Sullivan, Mize cafe operator.

The four went to a house on the Mt. Olive Road where the Negroes were believed to be.

They were believed to be drunk at the time, Bishop said.

As the four white men approached the house, the occupants opened fire "in all directions."

Sullivan's right arm was nearly torn off with a charge of heavy buckshot, which went through his elbow.

Hester was critically wounded and the Mize city marshal received shotgun pellets "all over his body."

The fourth member of the party was wounded, but not seriously.

Members of the State Highway Patrol went to the house Sunday night but the Negroes had fled to a swamp, in the region of Mize, Magee and Mt. Olive.

Posses were organized and surrounded the swamp Sunday night. Today they began moving in.

tor that certain Negroes involved might have been "waylaid" and forced to fire at their attackers in "self defense."

"Tell the fact to members of your race, and put a stop to the efforts of outside agitators to portray this incident as an effort on the part of the white peace officers to lynch or mob a group of innocent Negroes.

"We in Mississippi are law-abiding, God-fearing citizens. We expect and demand that all people, white and black, respect the rights of others."

Editor Robert Durr, of the Birmingham, Ala. Weekly Review, had written: *Mon.*

"Have your investigators go beyond the statements issued by peace officers to the effect that the Craft men and their friends provoked the difficulties.

"You might find that white men waylaid the Craft folk as they were on their way home from church and provoked them to shoot in what they regarded as self-defense against a mob."

Both Wright and Weathersby said the trouble began with a shot fired last Sunday afternoon by Johnny Craft when Ray Sullivan, a white youth, shouted at the Craft brothers for partially blocking the highway with their truck.

The two men still at liberty are Garfield and Bill Craft.

The "orderly processes of law" demanded by the Department of Justice through U. S. Atty. Toxy Hall had been observed throughout the determined, bloodhound-aided search, it was reported.

One segment of the posse, returning to Magee early today, reported being fired at by a lone Negro rifleman perched on a hill overlooking the road to the town. No one was hit, and the Negro was not apprehended.

This party brought in two more Negroes—not the ones principally sought—but said they were held only for questioning, raising to 11 the number so held. The Negroes joked nervously with possemen, asking, "Do we get breakfast."

Eight Negroes were taken into custody yesterday and removed to Jackson for safekeeping—"just in case," said State Highway Commissioner C. R. Bradley. None of them, however, was a prime object of the search.

* * *

THE TOWN OF MAGEE was quiet. One of the prisoners was left intended in the jail an hour yesterday without incident. Acting Gov. Fielding Wright visited the scene to satisfy himself that "there was nothing wrong," after receiving calls from Asst. U. S. Atty. Gen. Lamar Caudle and Walter White, of New York, an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

M. O. Ainsworth, one of the men who said they were ambushed Sunday night, said he owed his life to his use of one of the Negroes as a shield.

"The shot that got me also hit the Negro I had grabbed," he said. "We shot back until all our shells were gone."

The men who said they were ambushed were investigating a report by Ray Sullivan that a Negro whom he had asked to move a truck off the road shot at him.

The officers said they were fired upon as they approached the Craft home.

Posse Of Whites Scouring Swamp In Negro Search

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Mon. 8-19-46

Mississippians Move In After Suspected Ambushers Hurt Four

Magee, Miss., Aug. 19 — (AP) — Mayor O. J. Biglane, of Magee, said today that a posse of two or three hundred officers and citizens was hunting down a family of Negroes after a series of shootings in Sullivan Hollow last night, and that one of the Negroes had been shot and captured by state police.

The Negroes, members of the Albert Craft family, are sought in connection with the shooting and wounding of four white men, one of them seriously, and the firing upon two state police, Biglane said.

The Negro captured, one of three of the Craft brothers, was brought into Magee this morning by members of the state police.

Biglane said that the state police, augmented by fellow officers en route with bloodhounds from Jackson, was engaged today in a concerted search of the wooded area for the entire Craft family of seven or eight persons.

Magee City Marshal Ellis Bishop told this story:

At sundown Sunday, an automobile bearing white passengers attempted to pass an old wood truck, containing several Negroes, on Highway 20 near the Smith-Simpson county line.

As the automobile drew alongside, one of the Negroes jumped out of the truck and fired a shotgun into the car. No one was hurt.

Only Two Men Remain In Jail After Trouble In Sullivan's Hollow

The News
Birmingham, Alas
Mon. 8-26-46

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 26—(AP)—Only one white man and one Negro remained in Hinds County Jail here today in connection with the Sullivan's Hollow ambush-wounding a week ago of four peace officers.

Still in jail are Johnny Craft, Negro, former Marine, and E. W. Chapman. The white man is being held in default of bond, and Craft, who, authorities have said, was believed to be "ring-leader" of the disturbance, is held under four charges, none of which has been made public.

Ten Negroes were released under bond and three without bond as material witnesses of the 24-hour gunfight which resulted in the wounding of a Negro as well as the four officers. The incident occurred when the officers approached the home of the Craft family in Sullivan's Hollow to investigate a previous disturbance during which white men said Negroes fired at their pickup truck on a highway in Smith County.

Dist. Atty. O. O. Weathersby announced Saturday the release of a 60-year-old white farmer, H. J. Sullivan, under $1,000 bond. Also freed, on $500 bond was Sullivan's nephew, Herbert. The elder man was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill Glenn Hester, Smith County sheriff who was shot in the abdomen.

* * *

ACTING GOV. FIELDING WRIGHT issued this reply Saturday to a statement by a Negro edi-

Evasive Negro Gives Up; Posse Hunts Two More

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Tues. 8-20-46

U. S. Demands Orderly Processes Of Law; 11 Held In Ambush Case

MAGEE, Miss., Aug. 20—(AP)—Johnny Craft, one of three Negro brothers hunted by a posse in connection with the ambush shooting of four white men, surrendered at Jackson today and the search for the other two continued.

Jailer C. M. Herrin said Craft appeared at the Hinds County Jail, unarmed and unhurt, to give himself up. Dressed in U. S. Marine fatigue clothes, the reputed ringleader in a series of shootings in a two-day racial disturbance in Smith County, said he had walked 60 miles to Jackson, the state capital.

Craft slipped through a heavily-armed posse of several hundred officers and citizens in the Sullivan Hollow area. State police officers, sheriff's deputies and citizens of three counties re-formed their lines there this morning to press the search for the other two brothers.

Sullivan Hollow is in swamplands about nine miles from here.

Delta State Posse Gets Prisoners

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
Tues. 8-20-46

Pair Of Negro War Vets Surrounded In Swamp By Mississippi Group

Eight Others Taken

Acting Governor Visits

Manhunt Scene, States No Danger Of Violence

MAGEE, MISS., Aug. 19.—(AP)—Two Negro war veterans, whom officers chiefly blame for the ambush shooting of four white men, were surrounded in swampy Sullivan's Hollow tonight by a posse which took eight other prisoners during the day.

Acting Governor Fielding Wright visited the scene of the manhunt late today and then came to assure himself on the safety of seven of the captives who are in jail here. He expressed satisfaction that there was no danger of violence to the prisoners.

Governor Got Calls

"I knew there was nothing wrong down here but I got calls from the North and came down to see for myself," the Acting Governor said.

He said the calls came from Asst. U. S. Atty. Gen. Lamar Caudle, in charge of the Department of Justice criminal division, and from Walter White of New York, an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The posse was formed last night after a deputy sheriff, a city marshall and two special deputies were struck by shotgun charges as they approached the home of the Negro Craft family. The officers had gone to investigate a report that a Negro had fired upon a white motorist in a dispute on a highway near here.

No Apparent Tension

There was no apparent tension in Magee tonight. Some 40 or 50 persons stood outside the jail, but they were talking calmly and the number included Negroes as well as white men.

Town Marshall Ellis Bishop said there was no evidence that the men captured thus far had been involved in the affrays yesterday. He declared the two veterans, Johnny and Garfield Craft, brothers, were held chiefly responsible.

Bishop said W. O. Craft, 19, another brother and one of those held, identified Johnny as the one who had fired in the highway accident. W. O. Craft told the marshall he was not at home during the ambush and had nothing to do with it.

Johnny and Garfield were believed armed with Army carbines. Several other Negroes also were thought to be in the swamp with them.

One of those captured today was wounded as he attempted to escape. There was no other resistance, although W. O. Craft and an 11-year-old brother, Alfred, Jr., had an Army rifle and a .22 caliber rifle when they surrendered.

Held For Questioning

The wounded prisoner was L. T. Hubbard, seized this morning at the Craft home. Bishop identified the other captives as five Cooper brothers, J. W., Oliver, Horace, Lee and Luther. He said they were merely held "for questioning."

Bloodhounds led the posse into the swampy, wooded Sullivan's Hollow, scene of old-time feuds, on the line between Smith and Simpson Counties. Officers of the two counties, about 25 state policemen and scores of citizens took part in the hunt.

In Washington today the Justice Department moved to assure legal procedures. Caudle told Hall to instruct the sheriffs that "orderly processes of law should prevail at all times."

Tues. 8-20-46

Deputy Seriously Wounded

Seriously wounded in the ambush last night were Deputy Sheriff Gleen Hester, of Smith County, and Gaston H. Sullivan, cafe operator of Mize. Shot, but less seriously hurt, were City Marshall Wilson Dickerson, of Mize, and Oree Anisworth, a farmer. Sullivan and Ainsworth had been deputized to accompany the officers.

The difficulty began at sundown yesterday when Ray Sullivan, member of an old family of this area for which Sullivan's Hollow is named, came upon a Smith wood truck parked in the Highway 20 between Magee and Mize. Several Negroes were in the truck.

Sullivan reported that when he asked the Negroes to move their truck so that he could pass, one of them jumped out and fired a shotgun at him. The charge did not take effect.

Sullivan reported the incident at Mize, and the officers went to investigate. They were met with fire as they approached the Craft home.

Two State policemen who approached the Craft home later were fired upon but were not struck.

Tues. 8-20-46

16 1946

Missouri

Maid Who Took Child Not Negro

The Call
Kansas City, Mo
Fri. 9-20-46

Girl Charged With Kidnapping Baby Is White

Mrs. Mildred Everett, the 22 year-old maid charged with kidnapping 3-year-old Madeline Tobias, is not a Negro and has no Negro blood, THE CALL learned yesterday in a long-distance telephone conversation with the maid's mother.

Mrs. Rissie Baker of Massillon, Ohio, mother of Mrs. Everett, emphatically told THE CALL:

"My daughter is not colored and doesn't have a drop of colored blood in her. Whoever said that she is colored is going to have to prove all these things they are, saying in the newspapers."

Informed that it was her daughter herself who told police that she had one-eighth Negro blood, Mrs. Baker said, "That girl is not responsible for what she says." She explained that Mrs. Everett had a head injury from birth and as a result liked to wander.

Confer With Mother

Mrs. Baker said that to the best of her knowledge, her daughter did not associate with Negroes and had no Negro friends.

Madeline Tobias, known in her family circle as "Toby," was taken from her home at 3335 Benton Blvd., Thursday, Sept. 5, by a newly-hired maid who gave her name as Mary Louise King. The girl had been employed only three days before the abduction, when Philip Tobias, father of Toby picked her up at Linwood and Prospect, as she was hitchhiking. Needing a maid because of the illness of his wife, Tobias took the girl home and gave her employment.

The maid told the Tobiases that her name was Mary Louise King and said that she had been an inmate at a girls' industrial school in Ohio. A telegram to the school revealed that the former inmate named Mary Louise King was a Negro and could not be involved in the Kansas City incident because on Friday afternoon she had been interviewed in Columbus by a social worker.

Because of Mrs. Everett's swarthy complexion, police at first were in doubt as to whether the maid was a light-complexioned Negro or a dark-skinned white person. Later, it was brought to light that the maid had been questioned by police earlier in the week when she was found living with Negroes at 1202 1-2 E. 18th St.

It developed that she had been befriended by Mrs. Marguerite Stella Callahan, 22, who met her in a cafe at 18th and Forest. Mrs. Everett told Mrs. Callahan that she was looking for a job and had no place to stay. Mrs. Callahan let her share her apartment for a few days.

No Negro Blood

The police, learning that a white girl was living among Negroes, took Mrs. Everett to the Flora Avenue police station for questioning. There, Mrs. Everett told Sgt. Clyde Davidson that she was a Negro and she was released.

It was a week later that Mrs. Everett was hired by the Tobiases and disappeared with the Tobias child. A widespread search over several states resulting in finding Mrs. Everett and the child Monday in Terre Haute, Ind.

The maid was arrested in Terre Haute in a rooming house. She had placed Toby with a farm family, saying that the child was hers, that she could not take care of her and offering her to Indiana family for adoption. Later, the farmer saw Toby's picture in a newspaper and he notified police where the child was.

Mrs. Everett used several names, including Mildred Green, Mildred King and finally Mildred Everett.

Mrs. Baker, the maid's mother, said that she was a white woman and that Mrs. Everett's father was an Irishman. She said that he had no Indian or Creole blood. Mrs. Everett had told Lt. Charles Welch of the Kansas City homicide bureau who went to Terre Haute that her mother was white and her father was half Creole and half Indian.

Entire Family Grateful

"Toby" is the granddaughter of Ben Hurst, 18th St., pawnbroker. Hurst and the Tobias family said this week that they were grateful to all Kansas Citians, including their many Negro friends, who prayed for the safe return of their child.

Mrs. Everett is being held in Terre Haute in default of $5,000 bond pending her return to Kansas City to face kidnapping charges.

Mrs. Callahan and her mother, both of whom frequently saw the maid before she went to the Tobias home, were convinced that Mrs. Everett was white. Lt. Welch also told THE CALL this week that he thought the girl was white.

2 Women Nabbed When Cache of Heroin Found

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Ex-Convict Escapes Police Custody; Too Sick for Jail, Says Physician

Sat. 11-9-46

BALTIMORE

The two, Mrs. Cora M. Webb, 21, of 1125 N. Fulton Ave., a beautician, and Mrs. Evelyn M. Brown, 24, of 1001 N. Woodyear St., an entertainer, were placed under $1000 bail each, when arraigned before Commissioner James K. Cullen in U.S. District Court Thursday.

A hearing in the case has been scheduled for next Wednesday.

Heroin Found by Police

The detectives reported that they had the house under observation for over a month.

On Wednesday, they said, they entered the house and found five packets of heroin, eight needles, four syringes and heating equipment for the drug.

Woodrow (Buster) Brown, husband of Mrs. Brown, who has three previous narcotic law violation convictions, is to be similarly charged when found, according to Boyd M. Martin, chief of the U.S. Narcotic Bureau here.

Escapes After Raid

He was home ill in bed when detectives staged the raid. They did not remove him after being warned by his physician that his condition required use of an ambulance. Brown later disappeared.

Mr. Martin said the method used in selling dope at the Woodyear St. house was one of the most ingenious that had come to his attention in years.

He said a customer would appear outside the house and a paper bag attached to a rope would be lowered from an upstairs window.

Dope Bag Utilized

The customer would put five dollars in the bag—price of hero-in—and it would be raised and lowered again with the drug.

Mr. Martin said investigations disclosed that some 40-odd such sales were transacted there daily and that the operations represent one of the largest smashed here in recent years.

Sam Levin, attorney, is representing the two women.

N.Y. Reefer Ring Smashed

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Half-Million Intake Halted; 19 Arrested

Sat. 10-26-46

16 WHITE

Planned to Flood Coast With Weeds

NEW YORK — The largest marijuana ring in the last decade, composed of 19 men, 16 of them white, and selling one-half million dollars' worth of marijuana cigarettes annually within the United States, has been broken, with all of the principals indicted last week by the Federa Grand Jury.

Three of those indicted were Arthur McMillan, 89 St. Nicholas Ave.; Lawrence Douglass, 1184 Jackson Ave., Bronx, and Paul Douglas, 89 St. Nicholas Ave., who were arrested while carrying a large suitcase containing a supply of marijuana in Pennsylvania Station.

"All of the men posted bond," Colonel Williams, District Supervisor of the Federal Narcotics Division, told the AFRO. "If found guilty, they can get as much as 10 years each."

Planned to Flood Coast

The ring planned to flood the entire Eastern coast of the U.S., with tens of millions of cigarettes, which ordinarily retail at 50 cents each. Headquarters were in New York City, and the supplies were received from Mexico.

Although the ring supposedly had been operating here only since last July, seized records of its activities indicated that operations started more than three years ago.

All of its members had been under observation from the very beginning, and it is reported that a "very substantial" number of cigarettes had been sold.

Refused to Answer as Mystic

"McMillan was the principal one of the trio of colored men in the ring," said Colonel Williams. "He had met with Mexican smugglers in Mexico and El Paso, Texas, and had arranged plans for getting the marijuana to New York.

"He came here from California and immediately went to work, engaging in the narcotics traffic with the other 18 men.

"Douglas is known as Rashek Kamill. He puts on one of his acts as being an Egyptian mystic. He did the same with our agents when arrested with the suitcase.

"Declaring that he was a mystic and highly religious, he refused to answer any questions put to him or reveal any information about himself."

The Afro-American

32 Pounds Seized in Raid

Of the 16 white men involved in the narcotics ring, seven are from New York and the rest from Texas or Mexico. Those from New York are:

Thomas Ambrosio, 2115 E. First St., Brooklyn; Bernard Goldberg alias Barney Goodman, 308 W. 94th St.; Joseph C. Ullery, 63 Riverside Drive; Thomas McGreal, 21 W. 65th St.; Baltimore, Md.

Michael F. Tierney, 1965 Broadway; Arthur Denison, of Astoria; and Fain D'Orsay, who reportedly lives in an unidentified midtown hotel.

Sat. 10-26-46

On Aug. 23, Federal agents made a raid on Ullery's apartment and seized 32 pounds of marijuana. This is normally enough to make from 40 to 60 thousand cigarettes, which can sell for $30,000.

"Gage" by any name is still again the law

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 12-7-46

Call it what you will—hemp, marijuana, gage, hashish, muggles, reefers, or cannabis indica, George Russell, 11714 S. Holmes ave., was in business in a big way.

When officers spotted the 10-foot-high plants growing in his backyard Tuesday, they called it marijuana. Russell preferred to call it hemp. Both were right, but Russell was carted off on a charge of violating the state narcotic act.

The trail of the marijuana began in San Pedro, and oficers allegedly traced it to Russell's home, where he had a small nursery for growing the seedlings later transplanted to his back-yard.

CRIME IN HARLEM CALLED 'ALARMING'

The Times

Neither Police Nor Community Leaders Able to Cope With It, C. H. Tobias Says

New York, N. Y.

'DENS OF INIQUITY' CITED

Wed. 11-20-46

Director of Phelps-Stokes Fund Says Residents Must Accept Share of Responsibility

The crime situation in Harlem is "alarmingly bad" and "an expression of lawlessness that neither police authorities nor community leaders are able to cope with successfully," Channing H. Tobias, directors of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, decla ed last night.

Mr. Tobias, who lives in Harlem, addr ssed the Cooper Union Forum in the Great Hall at Eighth Street and Astor Place. He asserted that "even our best neighborhoods are cursed with dens of iniquity that operate brazenly and openly and app ently with the connivance of police authorities."

T speaker related that "one hou in my neighborhood"—110th Stre between Fifth and Lenox Ave es—"has a police record of at l st ten years, during which time here have been killings, suicides brawls and gross immorality of e ry kind" and "all known to the olice."

N nerous complaints to the District Attorney have brought no relief, e charged, although the sidewal are visibly "lined with loafers." Residents of other apartment houses must "stumble over drunks and assignation house habitués ever time they walk down the stre ," he added.

Real Estate Owners

Mr. Tobias held that real estate owners and managers operating in Harlem "make income their sole interest." He accused them of opposing new housing developments whether managed by Government or private funds. The same tenants if properly house would improve their own lives, he declared.

Fear of petty thieves has caused many chain stores to leave Harlem, Mr. Tobias said. While admitting an amount of neighborhood guilt, he maintained that the stores that operated in Harlem exploited the neighborhood with "shopworn stocks from downtown stores."

Mr. Tobias attributed some child delinquency to the large proportion of Harlem mothers who must work to meet family needs. He remarked that the period between 3 to 6 P. M., when children were out of school and loitered until their parents returned, was the time when contacts were made with neighborhood gangs.

The speaker said lack of playgrounds, stores, schools and housing developments was a problem of the entire city, but that in Harlem where congestion was greater the risks increased. He condemned racial segregation as partly responsible. So long as children are "fenced in as they are in Harlem," he said, their standards of life tend to be "below par."

Prostitution and Saloons

Mr. Tobias called upon the city and the State "to rid the community of houses of prostitution" and to "restrict the licensing of saloons and liquor stores."

"We must call upon the people of Harlem themselves," he said, "to accept their share of responsibility for the improvement of the community. This will involve full utilization of the boundless resources of the churches for social service rather than devotion of a disproportionate amount of time to purely emotional exercises."

City Magistrate Julius Isaac declared that the public rarely appreciated "the toughness of the police job, nor does it fully cooperate." He contended that New York City, with 1,000,000 persons between the ages of 16 and 25 provided satisfactory leisure for 2 per cent of the boys and for only 1 per cent of the girls.

Harlem Defended

The Times

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

On reading the remarks of Dr. Channing H. Tobias before the Cooper Union Forum, it seemed to me that since he is a resident of Harlem he has a responsibility to help correct the conditions which seem so bad to him.

Harlem has several block associations working to overcome that which is considered bad in the community and promote that which is good. We have had splendid cooperation by the police, and where we have shown an interest they have responded to help us. We can't do it through the newspapers but by organization.

New York, N.Y.

The Negro criminal often seeks shelter under the cry of "race prejudice," and many using Harlem as a political football have taken up the cry to further their own political purposes, and the police have been attacked and denounced in mass meetings. This sort of thing is a shield and buckler to the criminal, and the reputation of the community is not helped.

12-13-46

Surprising as it may seem, we have a church on nearly every corner, and since Dr. Tobias is a minister it does seem the right approach would have been to make his blast against crime in his community to those with their shoulder to the wheel doing all possible to better conditions.

Harlem has too many knockers and too few boosters. It is a fine section with good citizens.

M McADOO.

New York, Dec. 5, 1946.

North Carolina

N.C. Felon Serving 50 Yrs. Escapes, Scales 36-ft. Wall

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md. Sat. 11-2-46

RALEIGH, N.C.—Hosea Parker, 30-year-old prisoner at Central Prison, who was serving a total of 46 to 54 years for eight different sentences—mainly for arson and burglary—made a daring and ingenious escape early Oct. 19, the first successful one at this prison since 1937.

Parker scaled a 36-foot stone wall at 2 a.m. with an improvised rope, dropping the full height on the opposite side. He outwitted the guards by making a dummy figure for his cot, and thus was checked as "in" when they made the usual cell checkup at bedtime.

Outwit Guards

He tied a baseball to one end of the rope and threw it over the cross-arm of electric poles running around the top of the wall, pulled himself up to the top, then dropped to the other side.

A guard on the east wall heard a thud as Parker hit the ground and sounded an alarm. The prisoner ducked behind the greenhouse and disappeared. During the cell checkup he ha hidden in the prison's industrial building.

Another guard spotted Parker lying prone in a ravine several hours after his escape. When ordered at gun-point to come out, the prisoner feigned injury, limped toward the guard, the guard, then lunged forward, knocking him off balance, and fled before he could recover.

Woman Held on Kidnaping Count in N.C.

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 10-12-46

WILMINGTON, N.C.—Eva Mae Rheams of New York, who was arrested in Rocky Mount, N.C., as she was about to board a northbound train, was arraigned Friday on a charge of kidnapping in recorder's court before Judge H. Winfield Smith.

She was charged with abducting Ida Mae Brock, 15-year-old pupil of Williston High School, while she and her sister were attending classes. The latter is reported to have escaped.

Found in Street

Police Chief Charles H. Casteen of this city said the New York woman advised Prof. F. J. Rogers, principal, that she was the mother of Ida Mae Brock whom she wanted to take to New York City. She asked for and obtained her school records.

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Police said they have been advised that the Brock girls were picked up on the streets here about eight years ago and were given a home by a woman named Postel who resides here and has provided for them since. Sat. 10-5-46

'Sweet Lucy,' a Wine Drink Brews Trouble in Columbus

COLUMBUS, O.—Out Ohio way, there is a concoction called "Sweet Lucy," which caused so many crimes that the mayor here had to send out a clean-up order.

"Sweet Lucy" is a type of wine that, according to rumor, causes people to cut and shoot without notice. On Friday, Mayor Rhodes demanded that the Mt. Vernon Ave. business district be cleaned up.

Crime Month

According to the city executive, within the past 30 days approximately 10 cuttings, two shootings and numerous other crimes were committed. It was found that most of the persons involved were under the influence of the intoxicating beverage.

In a letter to the safety director, Mayor Rhodes said:

"There are no less than 32 liquor establishments on Mt. Vernon Ave., between St. Clair and Champion Ave., a one-block radius. This fact unquestionably bears some relationship to the excessive number of cuttings and shootings."

Station Stabbing

Before the mayor's improvement warning was 12 hours old a husky man pulled out a dagger in the busy Union Station and before a crowd of horrified spectators stabbed a man.

The injured man caught the dagger with his hands and his fingers were just about severed trying to protect himself. The culprit calmly walked around in the station until he was picked up by policemen.

Tots Set House Afire

The following day two six-year-old boys set fire to a house located on Michigan Ave., in four separate places, causing considerable damage.

The boys, according to the fire prevention bureau head, admitted breaking into the house and using matches to light newspapers in four different places. The owner of the house died several weeks ago, and it is in the hands of heirs.

Since the closing of the Columbus Curtiss-Wright plant on V-J-Day, there are any number of unemployed people who, with time on their hands, use it mostly to hang out with "Sweet Lucy," who usually leads them into a life of crime.

Veteran Escapes Return To Lynch-Famous County

The Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-12-46

NEW ORLEANS—An honorably discharged veteran, 21 years old, narrowly escaped return by officials to almost certain death by lynching in Amite County, Miss., last week.

Arrested while he lay in bed at home here, Henry Johnson was told that he was wanted for rape in Gloster, Miss., and that local detectives were picking him up for extradition by Amite county's Sheriff Wiley Smith.

Relatives of Johnson, and the local NAACP, wired the governor to refuse extradition to a county where, in the last 24 months two Negroes have been lynched.

On Thursday, Johnson was released. No statement was made. Sheriff Smith had not arrived to escort the prisoner back to Mississippi.

Johnson took a train north on Friday.

In explaining what lay behind the "pick-up," which the press insisted was made on a public street, Johnson said the two girls in Gloster had failed to identify him as "a man in khaki" who frightened them in a wood while he was on furlough there last year. At the time the girls were frightened, Johnson had been in the home of his grandfather, Cary Weatherspoon, who was also picked up and questioned as a suspect.

Arrested at that time, Johnson after a "trial" was given safe escort to Brookhaven, Miss., where military police picked him up 15 days later and sent him to Ft. Dix, N. J.

Officers who arrested Johnson in New Orleans posed as FBI men, he asserted.

Amite county was the scene in 1944 of the lynching of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, whose tongue was cut out during the brutal process of his murder. In August 1945, Eugene Bells, a veteran, was also lynched there.

Charge Wrong Man Jailed

PM New York, N.Y. Sun.

The National Equal Rights League, through Miss Mary Murphy, Jamaica, L. I., attorney, has filed notice of appeal with the Queens District Attorney's office in the case of James Johnson, now in Sing Sing serving a 15-30-year sentence for attempted rape, robbery, grand larceny and assault. The NER insists that Johnson, a Negro, is an innocent victim of mistaken identity. 12-1-46

The organization says it has new evidence to prove Johnson's innocence. When Johnson finishes the term he now is serving, he is scheduled to be returned to Florida to complete a nine-year chain gang sentence.

$50,000 bond, after his arrest Aug 25 on a rape charge which later was scaled down to "attempted rape." He was accused of attacking 13-year-old Gloria Palerno in a driveway behind 82-47 164 Pl., Queens.

It was pointed out at Johnson's preliminary hearing it would have been necessary for him to drag the girl more than 500 feet through a residential area to have attacked her at the spot she named.

The Equal Rights group requested to wire and write District Attorney Sullivan in Queens, protesting the excessive bail in Johnson's case, which has made it impossible to gain his freedom on bond pending outcome of the proceedings.

Johnson escaped from the Florida chain-gang after serving 32 months of a five-year sentence imposed on him on charges of stealing a carton of cigarettes. Johnson has denied the theft.

NEGROE'S TORCH SCARS HALT HIS EXTRADITION

The Times

CHICAGO, Dec. 4 (AP)—A thirty-seven-year-old Negro who escaped from a Mississippi prison won freedom in Federal Court today when he related he confessed killing a man only after his chest was burned with a blow torch and his fingers broken by a sheriff.

Costell Jones, stripped to the waist in the court of Judge Elwyn R. Shaw, displayed scars of serious burns on his chest and welts on his back. New York, N.Y.

Jones related he was sentenced in August, 1941, to life imprisonment on a charge of murdering Clay McComb, a white man. The sentence was imposed by Judge Perry M. Lee of Newton County, Mississippi, he said, after a trial that consumed one afternoon during which he was denied an opportunity to testify or present defense witnesses. Thurs. 12-5-46

The Negro said he was riding in a taxi driven by a white man when the driver stopped on a highway and began arguing with McComb. In an ensuing fight, the driver shot McComb, Jones testified, then gave Jones the gun and told him to sell it.

Since his arrest recently on an extradition warrant from Mississippi, Jones had been held in the County Jail. He applied to the Federal Court for release on a writ of habeas corpus, which was granted, because he claimed his constitutional right to due process of la win Mississippi had been denied.

Found: One Friend of John Colier in S. Carolina

Sun 6-30-46

Miss Morehead today concludes her report on a visit to the home state of John Colier, 26-year-old Negro now held in a New Jersey jail as a fugitive from a South Carolina chain gang. Her earlier reports were cited at hearings on his extradition, which has been delayed for introduction of additional evidence on prison conditions in South Carolina and possible danger to his life if he is returned. P. M. New York, N.Y.

By Eleanor Morehead
Staff Correspondent

GREENWOOD, S. C., June 29.—John Colier has one white friend here—the only person among the dozens I talked with who admits there may be some truth to his charges of police and chain gang brutality and who does not want New Jersey to extradite him because he may be punished if he is returned.

John Colier's friend was born here and expects to continue to live and work here. It is obvious, then, why Colier's friend cannot be named. However, the friend is willing, if it becomes necessary, to write to the Governor of New Jersey, telling him the story which follows and asking him not to return Colier for reasons of safety.

This is what Colier's friend told me:

"Johnny Colier is a boy who has never had a chance since the day he was born. He was reared on beatings at home, but he was mostly reared on the chain gang. That's the absolute truth. And he has never even known the meaning of friendship or affection, much less love.

Taught to Steal

"I have known him since he was 10 or 11. His father at that time, and for years before and after, beat him so unmercifully that neighbors repeatedly complained to welfare authorities. Sun 6-30-46

"His father taught him to steal, and beat him if he didn't. Johnny's mother was beaten often, too, and finally left his father. But Johnny got no affection from her. She didn't mistreat him, but she gave him no care, and his father always controlled and influenced him.

"If anyone should be serving time in prison or on the chain gang for Johnny's crimes, it is his father—and all of us who allow a child to grow up in such an environment.

"His home was bad enough, but Johnny spent more time on the chain gang than at home. He was reared on the gangs. Shortly after I first met him, he was sentenced to the chain gang, and he couldn't have been more than 12 or 13 at that time. I was horrified that a child so young should be put on the chain gang.

"It was that way until he finally escaped—off a few weeks, beaten by his father, go out and steal something, get caught, and back on the chain gang again."

(City and county police records on Colier show no arrests until 1937. Yet Colier's friend swears he was on the chain gangs frequently between 1933 and 1937, and Colier himself said he served six months in 1932. The law forbids sentencing children under 16 to the chain gang.)

"When I heard that Johnny had escaped, I said to myself, 'Thank God, now maybe he'll have a chance. I hope he'll never come back here.'

"I still hope that. I am afraid he will be in for a rough time, in view of all this publicity resulting from his charges, if he is returned here.

"I am convinced that Sheriff J. Cal White and Mr. Louden Brooks, chain gang supervisor, would not mistreat him or knowingly allow him to be punished. But I know some of the chain gang guards, and I tremble for John if he is returned here.

Men Are Whipped

"I am sure John was lying about being beaten in the county jail. Sheriff White would never allow that. But don't press me about the treatment city police may have given him. And I know that men are whipped on the chain gangs.

Sketch by Eric Godal, PM
John Colier
In Newark Jail

"Naturally, men who have served out of the county question him about this he was
or are serving on the chain gang often are chained as they took Edwards out of
will tell you there is no whipping work in town. "It is hard for me to believe that before he died, and
or chaining of prisoners. They have when he was returned he had two
more sense than to tell a white a police officer would beat a pris- realize, is second or third-hand,
person anything else. But within oner to death, as John said one holes in his head and one in his
the past six months I have seen a officer beat James Edwards. Never- leg which he said and there is no proof, but it cer-
man shackled from the waist down theless, our cook told me that an- had put there by beating him with tainly corroborates that part of
working on the road, and city pris- other person who was in jail at that a steel file. John's story, and Edwards' death
time told her that a city policeman "This man told the cook this should be investigated further."

Fight to Save Negro From Fla. Chain Gang

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y. Wed. 7-25-46

A federal order barring return of James Johnson to the Florida chain gang from which he escaped in 1943 was sought yesterday as a Queens County Grand Jury opened hearings on an indictment charging the 25-year-old Negro with "robbery, assault and attempted rape."

Declaring Johnson faced certain torture and possible death in Florida the National Equal Rights League in Harlem appealed to the government to refuse to allow his extradition.

It was learned a warrant asking his return to Florida was received yesterday by Charles Sullivan, Queens County district attorney.

The young Negro is being held in

'Pneumonia'

(The grand jury which is con-

ducting a special investigation into Colier's charges is trying to find out where Edwards' body is buried. There is no record of his burial. Records do show that he was removed from the jail to a hospital "unconscious and extremely weak," and died a few hours later. Cause of death is given as pneumonia. In his story, published in PM, Colier said he and the other prisoners were ordered by officers and the jail keeper to say that Edwards had died of pneumonia.

"As to whippings on the chain gang, I personally have never seen any, but I am not in a position to see what goes on. I do know that in 1924 a prisoner there on the chain gang died an hour or two after a severe lashing. An investigation was ordered. The man was charged with beating the prisoner to death, but he was acquitted later. Sun 6-30-46

"I am sure such a thing couldn't happen now, but at the same time I don't want to see Johnny turned over to the guards here.

"It is impossible to get to the truth of Johnny's whole story. I am sure he has lied and exaggerated about certain things. But I also am sure he has told the truth about many others.

"The only people who could corroborate him are Negroes who served time with him. They won't do it. Neither would you or I, in their place."

Alabama Warrant For Arrest Of Chicagoan Denied

The Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat 8-24-46

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—An Alabama warrant for the arrest and surrender of Lester Welles, now a resident of Chicago, was refused here this week.

Requisition papers presented by the state of Alabama declared that Welles was a fugitive charged with selling personal property claimed by someone else.

Welles in a letter to the Governor stated that he had purchased a cow allegedly covered by a lien. Later, when the cow had a calf, question arose as to the calf's ownership. Attempting to leave Alabama he was arrested and charged with selling a mortgaged calf. When he was released he came to Chicago.

Because the amount was so small, and the case was more a civil case than a criminal one, Governor Green said he decided not to issue the warrant.

Vet Who Fled Jersey Jail Back in Georgia Clutches

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 8-3-46

FREEHOLD—Jay Gould Cotton, youthful chain gang fugitive, and war veteran with three battle stars, who fled from the Monmouth County jail here while fighting extradition, made things easy for the Georgia authorities by fleeing back to that State where he was picked up on Monday near Augusta.

Cotton, who is 20 and married, along with Lawrence Jancie, white, had been the object of a three-week nation-wide search, after breaking jail and seriously slugging a guard in making a getaway. Jancie was capture in Brookline, Mass., on July 17.

Monmouth County prosecutor, J. Victor Carton, stated that in talking to the Georgia authorities, he learned that the fugitive had been employed in a saw mill.

Identified by Warden

L. C. Burns, county warden of Chatham County, is said to have identified the fugitive who fled from a Georgia prison two weeks after being sentenced to 10 to 20 years in 1940, at the age of 14.

Robert Queen, Trenton attorney, who had been retained by the Frederick Dempsey American Legion post of Asbury Park, to fight Cotton's legal battle against extradition, was first informed of his client's capture by the AFRO Tuesday.

"Now They Have Him"

Mr. Queen's comment was:

They wanted him and now they have him."

He added that if Cotton had been capture in this State or New York, he had intended to go through with the extradition fight despite the Jersey charges.

Monmouth County now holds five indictments against Cotton which include, robbery, assault, asault and battery, intent to kill, and jailbreaking. Prosecutor Carton stated that the only action taken on Tuesday was to file a detainer with the state of Georgia.

Cotton's jailbreak partner, Jancie, was captured in Massachusetts after committing a record of 15 daylight robberies which netted goods valued at $25,000. Jersey is now attempting to extradite him.

Won Wide Sympathy

Cotton earned wide sympathy following his capture in April of this year by New Jersey State Police who had accompanied FBI agents to his place of employment as a farmhand near here to check on the draft status of Mack Cotton.

Young Cotton used the name of his father, Mack Cotton, when he registered for the draft and attempted to get into the Army although he was under draft age.

Because he never registered under his own name after becoming 18 years old, he was sought as a draft evader while he was in the service as Sgt. Buddie J. Brown.

Shot Fleeing Troopers

Attempting to flee in April, Cotton was shot in the left leg by one of the troopers. It was discovered later that he was really Jay Gould Cotton.

The Asbury legion post became interested when it learned that Cotton had been discharged from the Army in February, after having earned three battle stars and a citation for bravery while serving in the ETO as a technical sergeant in an engineer outfit.

He was discharged with a 50% disability rating, according to his lawyer, after serving almost four years.

Mr. Queen had based his case for the fugitive on the grounds that Cotton was tried ilegally for a Savannah robbery, in that he was only 14 at the time. He also stated that Cotton's release on bail from the Freehold jail was imminent at the time he made the break.

Green Extradites Negro To Florida Chain Gang

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat 8-17-46

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Public sentiment in Illinois is mounting against Governor Green's speedy extradition of Pearl Whitney, 25 Negro Merchant Marine sailor, back to a Florida chain gang.

In a report to the Defender, Russell C. Meek, publicity director of the Springfield, Ill., NAACP, claimed that Whitney was arrested on a trumped charge of attempted robbery, which was admitted by one of the deputies. Later this charge was dropped. But while detained there, it was discovered that he was a fugitive from a Florida chain gang.

Promised Hearing

Upon learning of the case, the NAACP legal counsel, Attorney C. B. Davis, immediately filed a request for a hearing with Gov. Green through the Legislative Reference Bureau. Attorney Davis was assured by Jerome Finkle, administrator of the Bureau, that Whitney could not be extradited without a hearing before the governor.

Whitney was spirited out of the county jail, however, and was returned to a Florida chain gang without benefit of his legal rights, the NAACP asserted.

Dr. D. E. Webster, president of Springfield NAACP, interviewed Whitney at the county jail and afterwards related, "Mr. Whitney's ankles were covered with festerous evil looking scores caused by the shackles which he was forced to wear in the chain gang."

"Although obviously in dire need of immediate medical attention, none was provided during his entire three weeks at the county jail," he added. Defender

Compared With Heiren's Case

The young Negro victim of an Illinois-Florida version of justice, was accused of robbing a store in Pensacola, Fla.—which he vigorously denied. He was awaiting shipment to India with the Merchant Marine when he was picked up charged with robbery, and sentenced to six years on the chain gang. Chicago, Ill.

The NAACP spokesman said that it would be difficult for Illinois to explain the treatment of this Negro youth, whose guilt is questionable, with the consideration and privileges given William Heirens, thrice-confessed murderer and perpetrator of innumerable other crimes, still fresh in the public mind. Sat 9-14-46

FIGHT TO SAVE NEGRO FROM GEORGIA CHAIN GANG

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Mon 9-2-46

PITTSBURGH.—Leon Johnson, a Negro steelworker in Clairton, Pa., escaped from a Georgia chain gang in 1942 and is now confined in the County Jail awaiting return to Georgia. **Governor Martin has granted extradition.** The Allegheny County Common Pleas Court has refused to release Johnson, and an appeal from this decision is now pending in the Superior Court. The case will be heard in Philadelphia the week of Sept. 30.

Johnson testified under oath in the habeas corpus hearing that he was subjected to almost daily beatings by the prison guards; that he was forced to work while heavily shackled, breaking stones on the roads in the broiling sun; that he was deprived of necessary medical attention; that the food and living conditions at the prison camp were intolerable; and that his life was repeatedly threatened by the prison guards. He believes that if he is returned to Georgia he will meet with certain death at the hands of the prison guards. Mon 9-2-46

The Hill Club of the Pittsburgh Communist Party has been waging a campaign to get Gov. Martin to rehear the case and refuse extradition, and to raise funds for the defense of Johnson, which is being handled by the Civil Liberties Union. The Hill Club has been holding reguar weekly outdoor rallies on this issue, and will continue to do so during September. The response to these otudoor meetings has been very good; money has been raised for the Defense fund; an average of 100 Sunday workers are sold at each meeting.

High Court Denies Appeal Of Slayer Wanted In Georgia

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-16-46

PHILADELPHIA — (ANP) — Upholding a lower court decision, Pensylvania's Superior Court last week denied the appeal of Leon Johnson, convicted slayer of his sweetheart, fighting extradition to Georgia.

Although Johnson contended he would be killed by guards at the prison where he was serving a life sentence for killing Sarah F. Thompson in 1943, the court ordered him turned over to Georgia authorities on a requisition issued by Gov. Arnall. Johnson escaped with 174 convicts in a prison break in June, 1943.

Georgia. Sat. 11-16-46
Although Johnson contended he would be killed by guards at the prison where he was serving a life sentence for killing Sarah F. Thompson in 1943, the court ordered him turned over to Georgia authorities on a requisition issued by Gov. Arnall. Johnson escaped with 174 convicts in a prison break in June, 1943.

High Court Denies Appeal Of Slayer

Wanted In Georgia Chicago, Ill.

PHILADELPHIA — (ANP) — Upholding a lower court decision, Pensylvania's Superior Court last week denied the appeal of Leon Johnson, convicted slayer of his sweetheart, fighting extradition to Georgia.

Again, Again, and Again: There Are No Chain Gangs

The Constitution

The Associated Press, which should know better, reports in a dispatch from Newark, N. J., that Herman Powell, Negro, has lost his "30-month fight against being returned to a Georgia chain gang," and that the judge who ordered his extradition has personally called upon Gov. Ellis G. Arnall "to see to it that no violence occurs to Powell." Atlanta, Ga. Thurs. 11-14-46

There have not, of course, been any chain gangs in Georgia for the past four years, Gov. Arnall having officially abolished them at the first of his administration. Nor is there need of the Governor providing any special protection for Powell, a run-of-the-mill escapee. This the judge would have known had he read anything about Georgia any more recent or reliable than Robert Elliott Burns' fantasy, "I Am a Fugitive From a Georgia Chain Gang."

Of course, so long as such reputable disseminators of information as the Associated Press continue to write of "Georgia chain gangs," Jersey judges will continue to look upon this as a barbaric State and Georgia criminals will continue to beat a path to Jersey every time they break away.

And who can say it won't serve the both of them right?

COURT DENIES WRIT TO SAVE NEGRO FROM FLORIDA CAMP

5-20-46 Monday Daily Worker

The fate of Lorenzo Reed, 29, Negro fugitive who last Saturday was ordered back to "justice" in Florida, is now in the hands of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey.

The Governor, disclaiming responsibility because he has signed extradition papers, can still recall his warrant. N.Y. N.Y.

Reed's case was heard Saturday by Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer of New York Supreme Court who denied a writ of habeas corpus brought on Reed's behalf by the New York Civil Rights Congress. Reed now awaits extradition. 5-20-46

The Negro was convicted in 1942 for robbery, he denies he committed and sentenced to 25 years. Escaping to New York, he was picked up by police here on a spurious charge and later cleared. It was then discovered that Florida authorities were looking for him.

At the hearing, Reed said he had been beaten in Florida Road Camp 32 and had been confined in a four-foot square "sweat box." He fears death if returned to Florida.

NEGRO APPEALING COURT DECISION

Prison Camp Fugitive Is Fighting To Avoid His Return To Georgia.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 1 (AP)—Attorneys for a Negro who fled a Georgia prison camp three years ago testified in Pennsylvania Superior Court yesterday that the fugitive told them prison guards threatened to kill him if he were ever returned.

Appealing a decision of the Common Pleas Court at Pittsburgh that Leon Johnson be returned to Georgia, the attorneys said Johnson had told them he was beaten unmercifully, put in irons and made to sleep in a hole.

The Negro escaped in 1943, after serving four months of a life sentence for the murder of a woman in Cobb County, Ga.

He was captured several months ago in Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Marjorie Matson, of Pittsburgh, who said she was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, also asked that Johnson not be sent back to Georgia.

Vet Must Return To Chain Gang

The Defender Chicago, Ill.

Jersey High Court Denies Extradition

Sat. 6-29-46

TRENTON, N.J.— Twenty-year-old Jay Gould Cotton, army veteran of 22 months overseas, was this week told by the New Jersey State Supreme court that he must return to a Georgia chain gang.

The state high court decision backed New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Joseph B. Perskie's ruling in Atlantic City last May when he refused to review extradition proceedings. At that time Justie Perskie indicated that New Jersey had no right to rule on the legality of Cotton's trial in Georgia.

Cotton, sentenced when he was 14 years of age, said that he received cruel treatment from the older men in the chain gang, and escaped two weeks after he began his sentence six years ago.

He was shot in the right knee two months ago by a New Jersey state trooper who thought he recognized him as a draft dodger.

His attorney, Robert Queen, engaged by the Asbury Park, N.J., American Legion, said that his client should have been tried in a juvenile court rather than a criminal court.

Coming to New York the youth registered for the draft under the name of his father, Mack Cotton. He enlisted in May, 1942 in Richmond, Va., giving his age as 22. As a technical sergeant he participated in three campaigns and was suffering 50 per cent disability when discharged.

Vet Sent Back To Ga. 'Gang'

BY JARVIS ROBINSON

TRENTON, N. J.—(ANP)—The New Jersey State Supreme Court ruled that 20-year-old Negro U. S. Army veteran, Jay Gould Cotton, must return to a prison camp in Georgia.

In part the state supreme court decision said: "It is clear that the asylum state of a person fleeing the state of his conviction for a crime has no right to consider the merits of his trial, but only the question as to the obligation of the asylum state to surrender the person to the state from which he fled."

The court's decision backed New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Joseph B. Perskie's ruling in Atlantic City in May when he refused the review of extradition proceedings. Supreme Court Justice Perskie indicated that New Jersey has no right to rule on the legality of Cotton's trial in Georgia.

ATTORNEY ENGAGED

The Asbury Park, N. J., American Legion post engaged an attorney, Robert Queen, for Cotton. Queen said that his client was 14 years old when he was sentenced and should have been tried in a juvenile court rather than a criminal court.

Cotton, a war veteran of three campaigns, stated that he received cruel treatment from older men of the chain gang and he escaped two weeks after his conviction. He came to New York and under the impression there that he had to register for the draft, did so under the name of his father, Mack Cotton. Phila. 6-28-46

He enlisted in May, 1942, in Richmond, Va., under the name of Buddie H. Brown, indicating his age as 22. As a technical sergeant he spent 22 months overseas and was 50 percent disability when discharged.

Cotton was shot in his right knee about two months ago near Freehold, N. J., by a New Jersey state trooper who thought he knew him as a draft dodger.

Arrange With New Jersey

The News and Courier Charleston, S. C. Tues. 7-2-46

When a colored convict escapes from a prison in South Carolina and makes his way to a Northern state where he is welcomed with open arms, why do the South Carolinians want him extradited, brought back to South Carolina? Have not our officers of the law sense enough to perceive when their state is enjoying a good riddance? The News and Courier is in hearty sympathy with all governers, attorney generals, and attorneys for negro uplifting societies, who stand firmly against returning escaped negro criminals to South Carolina. If a friendly arrangement could be made with New Jersey by which all colored persons convicted of crime in South Carolina might be sent to that state and allowed to take up residence, instead of being sentenced to prisons in South Carolina, it would be highly satisfactory to The News and Courier.

Fugitive Saved from Return to Mississippi

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat.

CHICAGO—(ANP) — Charles Houston, 45, resident of Chicago Heights, allegedly a fugitive from Mississippi, last week, was saved from extradition to Hollandale, Miss., by his attorney, Robert E. Bryant, of the Chicago NAACP.

Houston's return to Mississippi was sought on a charge of selling mortgage property without informing the buyer that there was an outstanding mortgage against the property. He was arrested May 28 and given 24 hours to file a writ of habeas corpus or accompany the Mississippi sheriff back to Hollandale. 7-6-46

The Colier Case

P. Mg New York, N.y. Thurs 7-4-46

To the Editor:

When Ransome J. Williams, the governor of South Carolina can say "it's a routine matter with me" concerning the Colier case, and defend the road gang system of the South I receive the uncomfortable impression that Bilboism is a flourishing weed in our Southern gardens. He is allowing violence, unimaginable cruelty and a callous treatment of human life to persist through what seems to be a traditional, lethargic and accepted form of jailery in S. C. Thurs 7-4-46

If John Colier is extradited to South Carolina, I feel confident that no effort will be spared by the sadistic guards to relieve him of his unhappy life. All possible newspaper and public pressure should be brought in, to prevent medieval tortures of John Colier for his "tremendous" theft of cigarets, tobacco and gum at the age of 14.

New York MRS. LESTER COLIN

Georgia Fugitive Returns

News and Courier Charleston, S.C.

One of those fugitives from Georgia justice, who worked on the sympathies (or should we call it racial politics) of Northern politicians to prevent extradition, has turned up again in the toils of the law. And where do you think he was arrested? In Georgia, naturally. The negro, who bears the interesting name of Jay Gould Cotton, combining a famous Yankee name with a strictly Southern product, created a national "sensation" six years ago in New York and enlisted the support of the then mayor, Little Flower LaGuardia. Lately he has been in a New Jersey jail, again fighting extradition to Georgia. Then he escaped and of all destinations, he chose Georgia. 7-23-46

Have the terrors of the South diminished since Mr. Talmadge was elected governor? Or is the criminal drawn back to the scene of the crime by a force he cannot overcome? Or is there just a lot of tommyrot abroad that makes much ado about ordinary, brainless criminals for the sake of political mudslinging?

Jersey Sends Powell Back to Georgia Pen

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y. Thurs. 11-14-46

Herman Powell, Georgia Negro auto mechanic and farmer, lost his 30 month battle against extradition and started back to Georgia yesterday from New Jersey, to resume a life sentence on murdering. One of the women died, charges that grew out of an auto- Powell was unconscious for three mobile accident. days. When he came to they told

On March 16, 1941, Powell was him he'd murdered a white woman. on his way home from work when During the trial, the victim's his car was struck by another in daughter, who was in the car at which two white women were rid- the time of the accident, testified

Powell was picked up by the police and was subsequently identified as a fugitive. Despite the fact that 35,000 persons signed petitions to Gov. Edge, he was ordered extradited on Aug. 14, 1944. An appeal was taken in vain to the U. S. Circuit Court in Philadelphia.

One ray of hope remains for him. Rep. Hartley of New Jersey has promised to ask Gov. Ellis Arnall of Georgia to pardon Powell before Arnall's term expires.

Fugitive Loses; Returned to Ga.

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

NEWARK, N.J.

The long, up-hill battle of 29 months and 19 days to prevent Herman Powell's return to Wrightsville, Ga., ended at 2:20 p.m. Tuesday as the 33-year-old prisoner was taken aboard a train at Pennsylvania Station.

He is being returned to serve a life term on the chain gang for the accidental death of a white woman. Sat. 11-23-46

He was handcuffed to R. L. Fordham, Georgia State trooper, one of two officers who came to he said, "but it looks funny to me."

Mrs. Moddie Powell was in court when the judge ordered that her husband be turned over to the Georgia officers. Before Powell was taken away she was permitted to speak with him in the prosecutor's office.

Trying to console his wife, the prisoner told her not to worry, "I will be all right."

Then he began crying.

As the officer led Powell away, Mrs. Powell said she felt as though she didn't care whether she lived or died.

Wife Gets Threat

Later she said the Southern sheriff told her that if she ever comes to Georgia he will have her locked up.

"We would have had him two years ago, if you hadn't given us so much trouble," she reported him as saying.

In a telephone conversation, Tuesday, Robert Queen, Trenton attorney, co-counsel in the case, said he didn't know the case was scheduled for a hearing.

He said he had prepared papers to get it back on the calendar of the New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeal, as the case had been turned down by the court on Oct. 24.

Waiting for Potter

"I was waiting for Potter to serve notice to that effect on the Essex prosecutor.

"I was called into the case after William Krueger of 60 Park Pl., Newark, pulled out," Queen stated, adding that Chancellor Oliphant referred him to Potter.

"I informed Potter that the case was not as desperate as it had been made to appear, and that if appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court the ruling on the extradition in all likelihood would have been reversed," Queen declared.

Powell was arrested in Georgia on Mar. 16, 1941, as he lay unconscious following the auto wreck in which the white woman was killed.

A month later he was indicted on a charge of murder and three days after that was tried, convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

On Jan. 15, 1942, the sentence was appealed to the Georgia Supreme Court where it was upheld and on Feb. 27, Powell escaped and came North.

Following two hearings before Attorney General Van Riper of New Jersey, Gov. Walter E. Edge on Aug. 14, 1944, signed the order for extradition.

Sent Back to State

However, when Georgia authorities came to return the prisoner on Aug. 22, a petition for a writ of habeas corpus was filed in Chancery Court and went to the U.S. District Court.

There it was referred to the Court of Common Pleas on the grounds that the defendant had not taken full advantage of the State courts.

The application, however, was later denied by Judge Hartshorne on grounds that New Jersey courts did not have authority to rule on action of Georgia courts.

It was this appeal from Hartshorne's ruling which went up to the State Supreme Court and was due to go to the Court of Errors and Appeal.

Committing Powell to Georgia, Judge Hartshorne said he would call Gov. Ellis Arnall and request safety for the man.

Writes to Arnall

Late Tuesday afternoon his secretary said the Governor was out of the State and the judge was writing a letter instead.

Early last month the AFRO appealed to Governor Edge to prevent extradition of Powell, and asked similar action on John Coliers, who is fighting extradition to South Carolina.

Put Law Above Safety

Mr. Edge said that he felt bound to stand by his earlier decision to permit Powell to return, and added that he would adhere to strict legal interpretation of such cases despite appeals citing race hatred as a bar to fair trial and treatment of persons accused of crimes in Georgia and South Carolina.

Just before his election as Governor, Alfred E. Driscoll told the AFRO that Powell's case, that of Coliers and any others facing extradition would be treated by him on a humanitarian basis, and he said that he would not permit extradition of any person where there was likelihood of harsh and inhuman treatment.

Driscoll will take office on Jan. 14.

Georgia's Governor Arnall, widely regarded as a liberal, has stated that he would exert every power to see that Powell is given a fair hearing on his case once he is back in the State.

The decision on Powell's fate, however, would be up to the Georgia Board of Pardons unless he sought other legal means to avert the life term.

Newark to get him. The other officer was Deputy Sheriff Dewey F. Hall of Johnson County.

"Nothing to Say"

Powell, who had been in the Essex County jail since May 29, 1944, was calm but solemn as he got on the train. Asked for and said, "I have nothing to say." a statement, he shook his head

Final legal action in the case occurred Tuesday morning before Common Pleas Judge Richard Hartshorne, who said that Powell, through his council, failed to appeal the last ruling of the State Supreme Court which had upheld a previous ruling against Powell.

The motion was made by Jerome Litvak, assistant attorney general, who was assisted by Special Assistant Prosecutor C. William Caruso. The Afro-American

Appearing in behalf of Powell was Thomas Potter, defense counsel of Princeton.

Out of court, Litvak described the action as "cut and dried."

He expressed the opinion that the appeal, had it been carried to the State Court of Errors and Appeals and then to the U.S. Supreme Court, would have been thrown out. Baltimore, Md.

Potter Cites Promises

Tuesday afternoon, Potter told the AFRO that the case "could have been won easily, if the people who promised support had lived up to their promises."

Asked what kind of promises, he said, "financial, moral and political." Sat. 11-23-46

Fred Clark, who headed the Herman Powell Defense Committee, said he did not know that the case was coming up Tuesday as he had not seen Potter in three months.

Looks "Funny" to Clark

"I don't know what happened,"

Arnall Pledges Powell Justice

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

Chain Gang Victim Awaits New Trial

Sat. 11-30-46

ATLANTA—A ray of hope pierced the gloomy prison of Herman Powell, 33, recently extradited from a Newark, N. J., jail back to a Georgia chain gang, when Gov. Ellis Arnall assured Common Pleas Judge Richard Hartshorn of Newark that the prisoner "need not fear."

Powell, given a life sentence two years ago when he killed a white person in an automobile accident, is reported to have threatened suicide when Judge Hartshorn told him that he would have to return to Georgia. Mrs. Moddie Powell, his wife, is still in Newark, and has expressed intentions of never returning to Wrightsville, Ga., where Powell barely escaped lynching following the accident.

Arrested In Newark

After escaping from the dilapidated jail, Powell was arrested in Newark and has spent more than two years in Essex County jail, where he was considered a "model prisoner." Judge Harshorn was impressed with Powell's record as a hardworking respectable citizen and the fact that he was sentenced to life imprisonment for a crime that usually results in short sentences for whites—if they are sentenced at all. On that basis he appealed to Arnall.

In his message to Hartshorn, Arnall said, "Georgia assures that Herman Powell's person and rights will be fully protected."

Powell is now in Readsville, Ga., penitentiary where he was taken recently after Judge Hartshorn reluctantly allowed extradition.

DA Cowed Persons in N.Y. Attack Case—Harper

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

White Man Committed Crime Pinned on Fla. Chain Gang Fugitive—Equal Rights Officer

Sat. 11-30-46

NEW YORK—Charging that important witnesses in the trial of James Johnson, Florida chain gang fugitive, who is serving from 15 to 30 years in prison for robbery, and attempted criminal attack, have been run out of town by the Queens District Attorney to avoid investigation, Solomon Harper said that guilt of a white person for the alleged crime is crystallizing.

The National Equal Rights League official pointed out that new evidence reveals that Johnson could not have attacked the 18-year-old white girl, because he wasn't in the vicinity and that three witneses who testified against him have left town and can't be found.

"These witnesses were intimidated by a man named Wheatley who said he was from the D.A.'s office and who also tried to frame me, the Rev. Mr. Mack of the Equal Rights League, and Mrs. Sarah Speaks," Harper said.

The Judge's Sarcasm

Harper said he wired Judge Thomas Downs that a white man was guilty. "Judge Downs, during the trial, said that a warm reception was awaiting Johnson in Florida after he finished serving his term here," Harper stated.

Since the trial, Adam Bestska, the rookie cop who arrested Johnson has been promoted to detective. His testimony didn't jibe with his former statements; nor, did the white girl's whose statements changed from day to day.

The Jamaica NAACP at a mass meeting last week discussed what action could be taken toward forcing a new trial. The irony of the situation is that even if Johnson should be released his life wouldn't be worth a cent if extradicted to Florida. 11-30-46

Chain Gang Fugitive Loses Extradition Fight

Defender Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 11-30-46

NEWARK, N. J. — Forces of hate and reaction, disguised under the cloak of justice won a victory here last week, when Herman Powell, "fugitive" from a Georgia chain gang lost a 30-month fight against extradition to the home of the Klan and the Columbians.

Powell, who holds the dubious distinction of remaining in the Essex County jail longer than any other prisoner, walked out of a dilapidated Georgia jail in 1942, after having served one year of a life sentence. The hapless Negro, found guilty of murder as a result of an automobile accident on a wet road, made his way North, and settled with his wife in Newark.

From then, until his arrest in 1944, Powell worked in a packing plant. Since then, civic groups, labor and religious organizations fought against extradition. During several mass meetings arranged by the "Powell Defense committee," the victim of Georgia justice said he feared violence if he was returned to the state. After authorities here turned Powell over to a Georgia detective, Common Pleas Judge Hartshorne offered to telephone the state and ask that no harm come to Powell.

The judge asked Powell's lawyer, Thomas Potter to wait while he made the call to Gov. Ellis Arnall. Judge Hartshorne said he knew Governor Arnall well, and that he would explain the case in detail, so that no violence would occur. 11-23-46

Speaking from the bench the judge said he understood that Potter was to ask the court of Errors on Appeals for a ruling on the Powell case. Since Potter did not take this action, "I have no choice, but to deliver the defendant to the state of Georgia," Judge Hartshorne said.

Meanwhile, Representative Hartley has promised to ask Governor-elect Driscoll of N. J. to intercede with Governor Arnall on Powell's behalf, requesting a full pardon.

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Fugitive Awaits Re-Hearing; Carolina Defends Chain Gang

The extradition case of John Colier, 26-year-old fugitive from a South Carolina chain gang, is being reopened at a public hearing tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Trenton's State House before New Jersey's Attorney General Walter D. Van Riper. At that time Arthur Garfield Hays, noted civil liberties lawyer, will argue the case against extradition.

PM last week told Colier's own story, how he had been beaten into confessing that he stole a few packages of cigarets, chewing gum and tobacco in Greenwood, S. C., when he was 14, and how five years later he was sentenced to 19 months on the chain gang for the same crime. After serving 13 months Colier escaped, and now he fears he will be killed if he is sent back.

While Colier is being held in the Essex County jail at Newark, awaiting his fate, PM sent reporter Eleanor Morehead to South Carolina to dig further into Colier's story and the South Carolina chain gang. Her story follows.

By ELEANOR MOREHEAD
Staff Correspondent

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 24.–Chain gang brutality, torture, and degradation is an accepted fact here. The report published in PM last week of the experience of John Colier, 26-year-old fugitive from South Carolina who is being held in New Jersey for extradition, would hardly cause a single South Carolina eyebrow to be lifted in surprise or shock. Everyone knows those things happen and have been happening for decades.

Yet Ransome J. Williams, the Governor, told me yesterday:

"Ain't nothin' wrong with our chain gangs. Nothin's been wrong with them for years. Oh, sure, you get a little trouble, a little irregularity now and then, you might say. Then you have to dismiss a guard or two, maybe. But it's nothin' compared to the Reconstruction period.

(The Reconstruction period serves as the Dachau or Buchenwald ultimate in horror here.)

Never Any Complaints

Williams said proudly that during his 18 months as Governor he has "never had a single complaint, from a chain gang prisoner or anyone else." He would not say whether a chain gang prisoner who had a complaint would be able to get it to the Governor.

Asked why South Carolina is so anxious to have Colier returned, Williams said, "He must have murdered somebody."

When it was explained that Colier's crime was the theft 10 years ago of a few packages of cigarets, tobacco and chewing gum in Greenwood, and that he had served the major portion of his 18 months sentence, Williams said:

"There must be something else about it you don't know. To tell you the truth, I don't know one thing about the case. I never heard his name until just now, when you said it. I just sign these papers. It's a routine matter with me."

Williams Refuted

There is evidence to dispute Williams' appraisal of the chain gangs. Apparently there has been no official investigation or report on conditions in recent years. However, in December, 1943, a report was issued by the committee on penal conditions of the Richland Committee on Inter-Racial co-operation. Columbia is situated in Richland County.

The committee reported that its eight-months' investigation of conditons in the penitentiary and on penal farms showed that charges that Negro prisoners were being whipped and mistreated were "entirely accurate." The committee softened its findings, however, with the statement that it was "satisfied that certain corrective steps were being taken by officials which would tend to modernize penal methods."

There has been nothing further concerning these "corrective steps" or whether they were ever taken.

The charges referred to by the committee were made by the *Lighthouse and Informer*, a Negro weekly published in Columbia, with a state-wide circulation of 14,000. Its fighting and courageous editor is John H. McCray, 36-year-old Negro who also is state chairman of the Progressive Democratic Party which he organized two years ago because Negroes are barred from the regular "lily white" Democratic Party in the state.

McCray, admitted outstanding leader of his people here, has fought against chain gang conditions in the columns of his paper, but with little success.

"Chain gangs are designed for, operated for, and aimed at Negroes," he told PM. "Conditions are identical in each county, although they may be slightly less terrible in the bigger counties.

"Genesis of the trouble is the guards, of course. They get the toughest, meanest men they can find, most of whom are as illiterate as the prisoners. Their job is to keep the niggers in their place.

"Men come off chain gangs crippled, scarred, broken for life. The best thing to do is to be obedient and nice and polite as possible. Maybe you get out alive then. I have talked to dozens of men just off the chain gangs. Their stories are the same as Colier's. Whatever he said, he couldn't be exaggerating."

McCray has sworn affidavits from these men concerning their experience. Here are a few:

Moody Lowman, who served nearly four years for assault and battery on a white man. Freed, April 5, 1943, from Reid Farm, one of two state prison farms. The third day he reached the farm he was ordered by two guards to "get your pants down. We want to show you what the farm is like and see if you can take a beating."

A third guard held a rifle on him while he was lashed 150 times. One of the guards told him when he regained consciousness that he "took it pretty good for a beginner but needed touching up in spots. "He told of six other beatings, each ranging from 25 to 150 lashes with a leather whip.

Lowman swore that his beatings and those of other prisoners were for such things as asking permission to get a drink of water, not working hard enough, tripping and falling while working, or "plowing a crooked row."

Luzel "Buster" Hooks served five years on the same prison farm, was freed August 29, 1942. In his sworn affidavit he says he received "no less than 100 lashes, at least three or four times a week."

One day, he said, the guard beat every man in the detail because he found them talking while cleaning out a canal.

"A normal day," he said, "saw the whipping of a dozen men."

In September, 1943, McCray received a letter written by a chain gang prisoner in another camp asking for aid.

"Here is the way they beat us," the man wrote. "Make you pull your pants down, and someone hold your head and another holds your feet and with thick piece of leather two feet long attached to handle. The man take this and beat you on your naked skin until he wants to quit. What can we do. Nothing but lay there and take it. I was whip today, kicked in the mouth and also the side. The white prisoners do not be whip at no time no matter what they do."

McCray has dozens of other sworn first person accounts to match these.

Fugitive Here Ordered Back To Chain Gang

Lorenzo Reed must go back to the tortures of a Florida chain gang, where he is sure he will meet his death.

The 27-year-old Negro, who fled the road camp a year ago last month when, he said, a guard threatened to kill him, has lost his appeal for a writ of habeas corpus to prevent Governor Dewey from extraditing him. Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer in Supreme Court denied the writ, which had sought by the Civil Rights Congress in Reed's behalf, in a lengthy opinion which included this paragraph:

"The State of Florida and its people must be regarded as thoroughly law-abiding and competent in the administration of its law agencies. It is unthinkable that such authorities will not act with propriety. No complacency of Florida officials to mob violence and possible lynching has been shown here."

Reed, who has been in the Tombs since his arrest several weeks ago on a Sullivan Law charge of which he subsequently was cleared, has testified that his health has been permanently impaired by the brutal beatings he suffered on the chain gang. He offered medical evidence in support of his story.

Georgia Fugitive 'Sweats It Out' In Newark Jail

NEWARK, N. J.—Sitting quietly in his cell at Essex County Jail here, Herman Powell, 33, mutters dolefully "No hope, no hope" to assurances that he may be free soon.

For two years Powell has been behind bars while his lawyers fight to prevent extradition to Georgia. The case comes next before the Court of Errors and Appeals, New Jersey's highest tribunal.

Powell insists he "just walked out" of a Georgia jail in 1942, came North and was a respected citizen until police located him.

He was convicted of "murder" in connection with an automobile accident and was serving a life sentence.

Chain Fugitive On Way Back

Lorenzo Reed is on his way back to Florida today after another last-hour effort by the Civil Rights Congress of New York to stop Governor Dewey's agreement to extradition of the 27-year-old Negro fugitive from a chain gang. Judge John Bright in Federal Court yesterday refused attorney Sol Cohn's plea for a writ of habeas corpus, the same action having failed last week in the State courts.

Tombs Prison turned Reed over to Gid Powledge, the Florida agent who came here to take the prisoner back, at 2:45 in the afternoon.

Ohio's Refusal to Extradite Fugitive Irks Ala. Governor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP).—A blast at Ohio's Gov. Frank J. Lausche came from Gov. Chauncey Sparks last week over Ohio's refusal to extradite 40-year-old John Crawford, an Alabama fugitive, who escaped Kilby Prison in 1935 after having served four months of a five-to-six year sentence for burglary, grand larceny, possessing and attempting to sell stolen property.

Terming the refusal of Lausche to extradite Crawford a reflection upon the courts of Alabama and the fairness of clemency opportunities for persons convicted of crime in the State, Sparks said the Ohio Governor was "flouting the sovereignty" of Alabama, and violating the Constitution. He linked Lausche's action with pressure from groups in behalf of the colored fugitive.

Conceding the delicate nature of the colored-white social problem, Sparks attempted to champion the South's racial theories. He said, "We respect the rights of the colored race in the South, and a wholesome relation between races exists until racial hatreds are fanned by agitators, who have the rights of neither race at heart."

Escapee's Return To Georgia Upheld By High Court

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania has upheld a lower court ruling ordering Leon Johnson, 35-year-old Negro, returned to Georgia where he escaped in 1943 while serving a murder sentence, according to an Associated Press story from Philadelphia. The action sustained the quarter sessions court of Allegheny County, which had dismissed Johnson's habeas corpus proceedings and ordered him turned over to Georgia authorities on a requisition issued by Governor Ellis Arnall. Johnson had contended he would be killed by prison guards if he were returned to Georgia to serve a life imprisonment sentence. Johnson was convicted of murder in Cobb County January 25, 1943, in the death of Sarah Frances Thompson, 22.

N. J. to Weigh New Facts on Colier

The question whether New Jersey shall extradite 25-year-old John Colier to South Carolina and its chain gangs is to be left to the conscience of Governor Walter Edge.

Attorney General Walter D. Van Riper, at an extradition hearing yesterday in the Trenton State House, agreed with Arthur Garfield Hays, of the American Civil Liberties Union, that the ultimate decision rests with Edge's conscience.

He made the statement after Hays reported that in the last generation 50 Negroes have been lynched in South Carolina.

Colier escaped from the chain gang in 1938 after serving 13 months of a 19-month sentence for a minor burglary for which, he says, he was first sentenced at the age of 14 after he had been beaten and tortured into confessing the crime, although he was innocent.

Yesterday's one-hour hearing, granted especially to hear Hays' argument, ended with Van Riper's agreement to give Hays and Colier's attorney, Abram A. Golden of Newark, two weeks to file written evidence, including affidavits from Colier, from other chain gang victims, and from Eleanor Morehead, PM writer who has been sent to Colier's home town of Greenwood, S. C., to investigate his story.

Hays listed a number of cases in which various governors—Franklin D. Roosevelt and Alfred E. Smith, of New York, and governors of Michigan and Massachusetts—had refused to extradite fugitives from other states.

"All I'm trying to show," said Hays, "is that the United States Constitution imposes on a governor only a moral obligation, which brings up the question of conscience."

To which Van Riper replied:

"We are both in agreement that no power can force a governor to surrender a fugitive. How far do you thing the Governor's conscience should go?"

"It may be necessary," said Hays, "for you to investigate the facts in the case. Conditions are so bad in the South that . . . Miss Morehead . . . reports that the Governor of South Carolina is proud of the chain gangs. It's time we people of the North showed them that we're not going to help them develop that system.

Then, in response to a hypothetical question from Hays, Van Riper said he would refuse to extradite a fugitive, even just across the river, if he knew the fugitive would be lynched. Colier has said he fears he will be killed if extradited to South Carolina.

The hearing wound up with Van Riper saying to Hays:

"As ou argued, it is up to the governor's conscience, and I am not the keeper of his conscience. All I must do is report to him both as to the law and the facts in the case."

Then he granted the two weeks' time for affidavits.

TOMORROW: Another report from South Carolina by Eleanor Morehead.

Jurist Sends Reed Back to Chain Gang in Florida

NEW YORK — Lorenzo Reed, 27, who ran away from the tortures of a Florida chain gang a year ago, must return to Florida to square his account with its brand of justice, Supreme Court Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer of New York ruled on May 18.

Justice Hammer dismissed a writ of habeas corpus brought on Reed's behalf by the local Civil Rights Congress and ordered him held for extradition, a warrant to this end having been signed by Governor Dewey.

Tells of Death Threat

Convicted of armed robbery in Bay County, Fla., in 1942, the fugitive prisoner was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment, escaping from the road camp, April 12, 1945, under a hail of bullets, after —he said later—a guard threatened to kill him.

Reed was picked up in New York several weeks ago for an alleged violation of the Sullivan law of which he was cleared later. However, a check of his fingerprints revealed he was wanted in Florida.

Denied Counsel

The prisoner said at the hearing before Judge Hammer that he was denied counsel at the original trial, and Florida officials refused to reopen the case.

He asserted that he had been beaten at the De Feuniak Springs camp and confined in a "sweat box" four feet square, and expressed fear he would be killed if sent back.

Backs Florida Justice

In a long opinion, Judge Hammer said Reed's story "must be considered in the light of his record," and on the fact that men resentful of confinement cannot be expected to be completely co-operative.

"The State of Florida and its people," said the jurist, "must be regarded as thoroughly law-abiding and competent in the administration of its law agencies.

"It is unthinkable that such authorities will not act with propriety. No complacency of Florida officials to mob violence and possible lynching has been shown here."

LORENZO REED

who last week lost his fight in New York to prevent his return to a Florida chain gang camp, from which he escaped while serving a 25-year sentence. Governor Dewey agreed to the extradition over the protests of hundreds of individuals. Saying that he had been beaten at the DeFeuniak Springs Road, Fla., camp, Reed testified that he was certain his return would end in death.

Youth Who Says Pal Was Slain on Chain Gang Battles Return

NEWARK — A hearing on a warrant to extradite John Collier, 25, of 27 Orchard St., back to South Carolina where he faces a term on the chain gang for the alleged theft of $5, two packs of cigarettes and two packs of gum, will be held June 3 before Common Pleas Judge Richard Hartshorne.

Collier's return to the South was postponed a week ago, according to court records, during a closed hearing in Judge Hartshorne's chambers when it was found that the warrant for his return was faulty.

Edge Signed Papers

Investigation by the AFRO shows that early this month faulty extradition papers were signed by Gov. Walter E. Edge of New Jersey.

The error in the papers, it was revealed, was pointed out by Abram Golden, attorney, who was appointed by the court to defend Collier.

As a result, Sheriff L. Cal White of Greenwood, S.C., was not permitted to return the prisoner.

A prosecutor's representative who was in South Carolina at the time was ordered to get the correct papers, but had them signed by the secretary of state or solicitor of the Eighth Judicial District instead of the governor, it was learned.

Fears for Life

Further the defendant, who did not testify during the proceedings, is opposed to going back to South Carolina on the grounds that he would be killed.

He is reported to have told friends at the Orchard St. address that a boy arrested with him and convicted for the same alleged thefts, James H. Efferts, was beaten to death on the chain gang while he watched.

Collier is reported to contend further that he was beaten almost every day by officers who attempted to force him to confess to other crimes. He ran away, he says, to escape the fate of his friend.

Lawyer Noncommital

Golden was contacted, but stated he had nothing to say other than that he had been appointed by the court to defend Collier who told him he did not want to go back because he feared for his life.

As near as could be determined, the man has been in Jersey since the 1930's, and was formerly employed by the American Oil Company in Elizabeth.

Louis Donates $200 Against Extradition

POMPTON LAKES, N. Y.—(Calvin's News Service)—Big-hearted Joe Louis gave $200 this week to fight the extradition of Herman Powell to Georgia, where he is wanted to serve a life sentence for "murder" in an auto accident.

Joe met Powell's wife, Moddie, here at his training camp and personally put the money in her hands. Meanwhile, Powell is celebrating two years here in Essex County Jail in Newark, while his lawyer, Thomas Potter, is continuing the court fight against his extradition.

HOUSTON WINS ANOTHER EXTRADITION CASE

Chicago (ANP) — Charles Houston, 45, resident of Chicago, allegedly a fugitive from Mississippi, last week was saved from extradition to Hollandale, Miss., by the persistent efforts of his attorney, Robert E. Bryant, of the Chicago NAACP branch.

He was arrested May 28 and given 24 hours to file a writ of habeas corpus or accompany the Mississippi sheriff back to Hollandale.

In his argument before Chief Justice Harold G. Ward on June 22, Bryant disclosed that the charge arose out of a sharecropper's relationship in Mississippi where Houston occupied a two room shack on a plantation belonging to G. B. Saunders, in the course of which Houston and turned over to the landlord, Saunders charged Houston furnished supplies and equipment Houston still owed $300, which Saunders, as is the custom, increased by $1,500. The landlord has also recorded that there was an outstanding mortgage against the property, as an automatic lien on crops being produced by Houston.

Notwithstanding the cost of this equipment is paid.

One God---One People

1-12-46

The People's Voice New York, N.Y.

By BEN RICHARDSON

HUMAN FREEDOM IS ON TRIAL IN THE WORLD TODAY. There are but two kinds of people on earth in this moment of recurrent crises: the free and the enslaved. The petty delineations of race, color or creed are swept away as men stand shoulder to shoulder in an impregnable phalanx against the enemy. All men must be free or no men are free. There are but two kinds of social and political movements in the world today: forward and backward. The forces that are going forward are fast becoming free. Anti-fascist fighters are in the vanguard of these forces. They seek opportunities to liberate besieged humanity wherever it is found, in Europe, Asia or at home in the United States.

THE CASE OF HERMAN POWELL

HERMAN POWELL, a Negro of Johnson County, Ga., was riding in his car on a rain-swept night in March 1941. Another car came toward him. The blinding rain made visibility almost impossible. As the cars headed toward each other, the headlights of Powell's car shone directly into the windshield of the other car and he saw its terror-stricken occupants—two white women. An interminable moment of impending catastrophe; then crash! Herman Powell was knocked unconscious. One of the white women in the other car was killed. Powell awoke in jail—in chains. The trial was soon and hasty; the sentence—life imprisonment.

CERTAIN INJUSTICE

1-12-46

Forty similar cases of deaths due to collision have occurred in the state of Georgia. White persons figured in thirty-four of these accidental deaths; Negroes were involved in six. In each of the thirty-four cases involving white persons, the court penalty did not exceed six months imprisonment. Each of the six Negroes was charged with murder, found guilty and sentenced to life. Eventually Herman Powell escaped prison in Georgia and made his way to New Jersey where he has lived ever since as a reputable member of the Newark community. Subsequently he was apprehended and remanded to prison, there to await extradition to Georgia. Persons and organizations interested in the implementing of the 14th Amendment have sustained sanctuary for Powell in the state of New Jersey at great pains and considerable cost. Today there is a Herman Powell Foundation under the direction of Douglas R. Holmes and Thomas Potter, the one—a highly respected business man, and the other the brilliant attorney who obtained justice and financial adjustments for the victims of paint brush radium poisoning in a watch dial factory some years ago. The foundation is located at Room 6-F, 253 West 16th Street, New York City. Powell is not a free man yet. He is still in the Newark jail. A court fight is being conducted to free him. Contributions to carry on this effort are solicited and can be sent to the above address.

ENTER, THE CHURCH

1-12-46

BISHOP DAVID H. SIMS, Presiding Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, whose conferences include New Jersey, has entered the fight in behalf of Herman Powell, and he is marshalling behind him the churches over which he presides. A quotation from his letter to them states: *"I have studied the Herman Powell case, and I am convinced that the issue in that case is the vital issue of the Negro's future in American social and political life. I exhort all Negro citizens to make this issue their issue, and I call upon the Member Churches of the First Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church in America, to unite as a Christian and a Racial unit behind this cause." By this gesture Bishop Sims takes his place in the vanguard of fighters for freedom. He must not be alone in the struggle. Other churches of other denominations, white and Negro, Jewish and Gentile, must follow suit. And if the occasion arises when any member of any church or community suffers because his rights are placed in jeopardy, religion must challenge injustice and thereby prove its vitality and usefulness. I intend to write a detailed story of Bishop Sims' participation in this important struggle, but it must be clearly evident that he is fulfilling the mission of the Master who said: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

ALABAMA RENEWS EXTRADITION MOVE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—(AP)—Alabama submitted a new request today for the extradition of Fletcher Mills, 18-year-old Negro, wanted in Tuscaloosa County for assault with intent to kill his landlord Thomas R. Terry, 47.

Wallace R. Colwell, legal advisor to Gov. Harry F. Kelly, said the state's attorney general would be asked to pass on the validity of objections raised by defense counsel to Alabama's third set of extradition papers.

Then the matter will be submitted to Kelly for final decision.

Harry A. Anbender, repreesnting the Civil Rights Federation said the extradition request was based on an indictment issued during the July term of the Tuscaloosa County Grand Jury. He said affidavits supporting the charge were not filed until this month.

Defense Atty. Alonzo Pettiford, Detroit, said two lynchings in Tuscaloosa County in the past decade should be considered, and that if Mills is returned he "will be snatched from the law."

Gov. Kelly Asked To Block Return Of Victim To Ga.

1-22-46

A request that Andrew Parker, recently discharged veteran, not be extradicted to a Georgia chain gang was made of Gov. Harry F. Kelly and Lt. Col. Vernon J. Brown by the Detroit branch NAACP. This request was made because of Parker's honorable record in the armed forces.

1-22-46

Parker was arrested with several companions June 1 because a revolver was found in the car in which they were riding. In checking the records police found that Parker was wanted in Georgia for escaping from a chain gang when he was only 17 years old. He is now 22.

1-29-46

A hearing was held before Wallace A. Colwell, legal advisor to Governor Kelly, Friday, June 14. Andrew Parker was represented by Atty. Bernard A. Pearl. Gloster Current represented the NAACP.

CALL DETROIT RALLY TO SAVE NEGRO FROM ALA. LYNCHERS

Daily Worker

DETROIT, Jan. 15.—A meeting to save the life of Fletcher Mills, 18-year old sharecropper, fighting extradition back to Alabama, has been called here for 8 P. M. Thursday. The meeting will be held at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 1349 East Ferry.

The third request for the extradition of the young Negro sharecropper is being considered by Michigan Attorney-General John R. Dethmers, who will rule on the objections raised by the Detroit Civil Rights Federation.

N.Y. N.Y.

If Dethmers rules that there is nothing wrong with the papers, then Governor Kelly will be in a position to sign the extradition warrant which will send Mills back to the lynch mob waiting for him in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

1-16-46

A letter received here in Detroit by Fletcher Mills from his 16-year old wife indicates the fate that awaits him.

"Don't come back on this side of the river," wrote Mrs. Mills, "because the mob crowd say that whenever the sun shines that is where they will lay him down."

Fletcher, one of 12 children, is charged with assault with intent to murder after defending himself against his landlord's clubbing.

Public pressure to date has kept the Governor of Michigan from signing the papers which will send Fletcher to a certain death.

Thursday's meeting is being called by the Midtown and Uptown Communist Clubs, and is supported by many ministers and community spokesmen. At least nine ministers will urge their congregations to attend the meeting.

Speakers include Rev. T. Timberlake, chairman, Detroit Baptist Ministers Association; Harry Ammbender, attorney, Civil Rights Federation; Rev. A. C. Williams, Metropolitan Baptist Church, and Abner Berry, educational director, Communist Party of Michigan.

DETROIT RALLY FIGHTS LYNCH THREAT TO NEGRO

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

By HARRY WILSON

DETROIT, Jan. 20.—Urging immediate public protest to save the life of Fletcher Mills, 18 year old Negro sharecropper, speakers at an emergency rally tonight in Detroit condemned Gov. Harry F. Kelly for signing the extradition warrant which will send young Mills to face the lynch mob waiting for him in Alabama. 1-21-46

"I represent the 300 Baptist ministers in this city," said Rev. T. Timberlake, chairman of the Detroit Baptist Ministers Association, "and I want to see Fletcher Mills do not want to see Fletcher Millshands and speak in unity against sent back to Alabama. He will not all of the manifestations of Jimget any justice there. crow and racial discrimination. The

"The more people we can get to Negro people will find a strong ally stand between Fletcher Mills and in the labor movement."

the Alabama mob waiting for this Barbara Willson, chairman of the

Negro 'Fugitive' Wins Freedom In Extradition Case

1-21-46

Chicago, Ill.

Wilfie McDaniels, an alleged fugitive from an Alabama prison, is free man. McDaniels was at owes his liberty to the fight put up time a player with the Ameriin his behalf by Attys. Jerry Brum can Giants ball team. field and George Lawrence before Gov. Green refused to honor the requisition and today McDaniels is a free man. McDaniels was at one time a player with the American Giants ball team.

Judge Reserves Decision In Reed Extradition Case

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.
Fri. 5-17-46

Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer yesterday reserved judgment in Supreme Court in the habeas corpus hearings on the extradition case of Lorenzo Reed, a Negro fugitive from Florida's Road Camp 32.

Reed told the court he had been beaten unmercifully, placed in a "sweat box," threatened with death, and in general subjected to inhuman punishment.

Reed was convicted in 1942 of alleged robbery, for which he denies guilt, and was subsequently sentenced to 25 years in the state prison. He was taken to Road Camp 32, one of the state's many prison camps, and almost immediately, he charged, began suffering abuse by the guards. Fri. 5-17-46

On April 12, 1945, he said yesterday, he was severely beaten by a guard, who shouted: **"Nigger, I'm tired of you. I'm going to kill you before the day is over!"**

Gid Lowledge, Florida prison transfer agent, solemnly denied that he had ever seen a sweat box in all his travels over the Florida prison system. He had, however, seen solitary confinement chambers, he said,

These chambers, Lowledge said, were four by four feet, open at the top and stood in the broiling hot sun. He likened the solitary confinement chambers to the disciplinary practices of other states, asserting that solitary confinement was practiced in all state and federal prisoners.

The hearings before Justice Ernest L. Hammer were a petition for a writ of habeas corpus that would deny Florida the custody of Reed, although Governor Dewey has signed his extradition papers.

Reed's counsel, Sol H. Cohn, of the New York Civil Rights Congress, cited precedents which denied extradition on the grounds of eminent reprisal by the prison officials who requested the return of the fugitives. Cohn emphasized that Reed would face violent punishment and probable death if returned to Florida.

Earlier Reed told of a prisoner that had escaped and was murdered on his return. Fri. 5-17-46

Lowledge, minimizing Reed's testimony on the camp's regime, testified that he had returned about 50 or 60 fugitives to Florida, and some had actually asked to go back to Road Camp 32.

When asked whether Florida had chain gangs, he denied their existence but remembered a few "extra bad prisoners" that had to be shackled for their own protection.

Lowledge claimed that Florida's penal system was a model one, and that Reed had nothing to fear when he reached there.

Escaped Torturers, Fled Here

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

Unless Gov. Dewey stays his own decision another Negro will be extradited tomorrow from New York State to a Southern chain gang.

The Governor has already signed the extradition papers for Lorenzo Reed, 27-year-old refugee from a Florida prison "road camp."

Reed has testified that his health was wrecked and his life threatened by the guards at the "road camp" but his story was never heard by Dewey. Mon 5-13-46

Meyer Stern, chairman of the newly-organized New York Civil Rights Congress, wired Dewey yesterday insisting that he stay the extradition and hold a hearing at which Reed's story can be told.

Stern cited the precedent in a recent New Jersey case where Gov Edge held up a warrant and ordered a hearing after he had already signed extradition papers.

Reed was arrested in Panama City, Florida, in June of 1942 charged with armed robbery. He was tried without benefit of counsel, a violation of the U.S. Constitution, and jailed for 25 years.

TORTURED

He was sent to a chain gang in October off 1944, and compelled to work from sun-up to sun-down.

"Because I was unable to endure the heat and hard labor," Reed's affidavit says, "the captain, I. H. West, beat me, having a trustee hold me over a keg."

"I was so weak from being unable to do heavy work and the captain's corporal punishment that I asked to see a doctor. After being examined by a doctor, he said I was unfit for road work. However, the said Captain West paid no attention to the doctor's report and I was forced to continue to work and to suffer corporal punishment at the hands of Captain West."

Reed went on to say that West was dismissed and another captain appointed but that the situation did not change except that the foreman did the beating.

On April 12, 1945, the foreman began to beat him again telling him, "Nigger, I'm getting tired of you. I'm going to kill you before the day is over." Reed decided to make a run for it later in the day and got away.

Since he arrived in New York he said, he went to see a Dr. B. B. Goldberg who told him his back was in "very bad" shape.

"Now at the age of 27," Reed said in his affidavit, "I am a sick man, my health ruined by the cruel and inhuman treatment I received in the road camp."

NOT THE FIRST

Mon. 5-13-46

This is by no means the first time Gov. Dewey has condemned Negroes to the barbarities of Southern slave camps. In 1943, despite widespread and bitter protest, he sent George Burrows back to Mississippi where he faced the danger of being lynched.

Last year, the State Supreme Court blocked the Governor's extradition to South Carolina of James Corley, a Negro veteran who had lived in New York for 17 years and who had served two years in Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

The Governor has always been sensitive to the possible reactions of Southern delegations to national GOP conventions, whose backing he has wooed for his Presidential aspirations.

Demand Dewey Hear Fla. Negro

Daily Worker

Responsibility rests with Governor Dewey for insuring that Lorenzo Reed, Negro fugitive from a Florida chain gang, be given a hearing before decision is made as to returning him to that state, Meyer E. Stern, chairman of the Civil Rights Congress of New York, told him in a wire yesterday.

Decision on a writ of habeas corpus brought on Reed's behalf in New York Supreme Court was postponed Tuesday until this morning solely on the basis of possible action by the Governor. N.Y.

Dewey, through Lawrence E. Walsh, his assistant counsel, has disclaimed authority to act in view of the fact that he has already signed the warrant of extradition.

Answering this disclaimer, Stern wired the Governor: New York

"Urge your action today on basis of Section 850, Code of Criminal Procedure, which states: 'The Governor may recall his warrant of arrest or may issue another warrant whenever he deems proper.' There is some question of court's authority, none of yours. Whether Reed, who makes grave charges, will be returned to chain gang without benefit even of full hearing of his case, rests with you. Thurs. 5-16-46

Reed charges he was sentenced to 25 years on the Florida chain gang, in a ten-minute trial in which he was unrepresented by counsel, in 1942. In 1945, after guards had threatened his life, he escaped and came to New York. In a statement to the Civil Rights Congress of New York Reed made charges of constant cruelty and abuse in the road camp to which he was sent in 1944.

Sparks Attacks Ohio Governor In Negro's Case

Mon. 5-7-46
Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Irate Alabama Official Claims Sovereignty Of State Is Violated

"A flaunting of the sovereignty of Alabama and a violation of the U. S. Constitution" was the way Gov. Chauncey Sparks yesterday described Governor of Ohio Frank J. Lausche's refusal to extradite John Crawford, escaped Negro convict.

Crawford was convicted and imprisoned in Kilby in December, 1934, for robbery in Birmingham. He escaped in April, 1935, and is now living in Cleveland.

A comparison of fingerprints led to Crawford's identification.

Writes Sparks

In a letter to Governor Sparks, the Ohio governor cited Crawford's war record and said the Negro had lived a good life.

"While in Ohio he has gained the respect and confidence of his associates," Governor Lausche said in his letter.

"In view of the above facts," the letter continued, "it is my judgment that the governor's warrant should not be issued in this instance." Mon. 5-7-46

A letter to Governor Sparks from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the "pardon would be received in some quarters with grateful concern."

Governor Sparks said he felt the reason for the refusal was that evidently the Ohio chief executive did not believe the Negro would get a fair hearing in Alabama.

State Question

"The question of a parole or pardon for Crawford is something for our own Parole Board to decide," the governor said. "If I felt the case merited it I would go before the board myself to ask for his parole."

Hours Count in Fight for Lorenzo Reed

Louis Colman, executive secretary of the New York Civil Liberties Congress said yesterday that "either Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer or Gov. Dewey can stop the extradition of Lorenzo Reed to the chain gang. Both have the legal power." Fri. 5-17-46

"Justice Hammer has reserved decision," he said. "Gov. Dewey has side-stepped the issue and disclaimed responsibility.

"Reed must not go back."

"The Civil Rights Congress of New York calls upon the people of the state to express themselves forcefully and quickly. Hours count."

SOUTH CAN SOLVE ISSUE ON RACES, SAYS SPARKS

Birmingham Age-Herald
Sun. 5-7-46

"flouting of the sovereignty" of Alabama and a violation of the U. S. Constitution.

"I cannot understand Gov. Lausche's attitude," he said. The Constitution requires all states to respect the sovereignty of other states."

"Apparently pressure was put on as zealously for them as certain poor white citizens which will work Crawford's be-groups do for the Negroes."

Gov. Lausche said, "but there is no half." Sparks said, "but there is no The colored race has created justification for his yielding to such pressure.

Sparks termed the action by Ohio's Gov. Rank J. Lausche as a delicate social problem which must be dealt with intelligently and hu-

Negro to mix with the white race Negro to insist on it either.

16b 1946

Chinese, by Negroes (New York)

Negro Suspect Tries To Take Own Life

The News Birmingham, Ala.
Nov. 9-9-46

NEW YORK, Sept. 9—(AP)—Enix Bussey, 31-year-old Negro, who was charged with homicide and robbery in the slayings of two Chinese laundrymen and the robbery of two others, attempted to hang himself in his cell at Tombs Prison this morning, police reported.

Bussey, who was arrested in Buffalo with a girl accomplice, Shirley Hart, 23, of Suffolk, Va., was found by a prison guard after he had attempted to hang himself with a twisted strip of bedsheeting. He was removed to Bellevue Hospital where his condition was reported not serious.

16b 1946

Discussions of

Law—Not Race—Is Important

The Atlanta Daily World

For the year just ended, Atlanta Negroes have been slain, through one or another means, to the tune of 76. This is 26 more than the number killed in 1944; 34 more than the number killed in 1943, and precisely the number slain in 1942. It also points up the fact that last year's slayings total 61 more than the number slain among whites.

Of the 76 homicide victims among colored Atlantans 49 are known to have been killed by Negroes; 4 by policemen, 1 by an MP, two by white civilians, and the remainder by persons unknown. One of this number was killed with with an axe, another with a blunt instrument, switchblades and butcher knives accounted for 60 per cent, and pistols accounted for 31 per cent. 1-13-46

Of significance also, is the fact that of this total of those thus far disposed of through court trials, only one was given the electric chair; two given life and an undetermined number given brief sentences ranging from one to twenty years.

From these facts, one cannot help but gain the impression that Atlanta courts and law enforcement machinery have been unduly cautious, not to say lenient, in punishing Negroes for crimes against each other. There has been an unmistakable tendency to treat these offenses lightly or not at all, simply because the offenders and victims are Negroes. 1-13-46

We are reminded by this of seven youths, ranging in ages from 13 to 17, who were arrested on burglary and robbery charges. The point we make is, our environment permits, not to say encourages, violence so long as it is confined among Negroes. Atlanta Ga.

It is time that our courts and juries halt this dangerous leniency. For true justice cannot exist when courts and juries deal out punishment of one degree to white people and punishment of another degree for Negroes when both have violated the same law. It is the law, not the races, that counts.

Rich Slayer of Ranch Hand To Face a New Trial

Special to the Daily Worker

TUCSON, Ariz., Jan. 1. — James P. Converse, wealthy cattle owner, failed to win acquittal on a charge of murdering Francisco Romero, Mexican-American ranch-hand, and now will have to face a second trial. This is the equivalent of a white man failing to win acquittal for murder of a Negro in the deep South. Converse was tried before a jury of three women and nine men, considered "safe" by the defense because it did not include Negroes or Mexicans.

However, the jury, after 20 hours of deliberation, reported it was unable to reach a verdict and Superior Court Judge John J. Lyons, Jr., ordered its dismissal.

Statewide attention had beeen focussed on the trial when the defense sought to utilize a Tucson Communist Party leaflet to conjure up a red-scare. The leaflet urged equal justice in Converse's case though he is a cattle baron.

Press and radio cooperated with the defense in describing the leaflets as "mysterious" and Converse's attorney made them the basis for a demand to move the trial to another county. It was hinted that contempt of court proceedings might be brought against the Communist Party and Lou Korobkin, party chairman, was brought in to testify on the handbill.

Korobkin clashed sharply with John Van Buskirk, defense attorney, in court. The Communist leader reaffirmed the party's demand for equal justice for Mexicans and Negroes along with other Americans and asserted that it was the duty of the people to attend the Converse trial.

Following Korobkin's testimony, Judge Lyons denied the motion for change of venue. No more was said about contempt of court proceedings and the red-baiting, which continued during defense interrogation of talesmen, ended after the selection of the jury.

The defense presented Romero's slaying as an "unfortunate accident" and pictured Converse as "very sorry" about the whole thing.

Cattlemen, landowners, businessmen and bankers, including the president of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce, were brought in as character witness for Converse.

County Attorney Johnson pressed the prosecution. He scored the parade of local bigwigs on Converse's behalf.

The true test of Converse's character, Johnson said in refutation of the banker witnesses, was the fact that he had pulled a loaded gun and killed a man. There is no need to carry loaded guns in Tucson, Johnson declared.

The County Attorney pressed jurors to meet their responsibility to the community.

"You must decide this case just as if the situation were reversed," he said, "just as you would if Romero had killed Converse."

Negro Homicides In '46 Outnumber Whites 10 To One

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 1-1-47

By CLAUDE L. WEAVER

95 HOMICIDES—that is the incredible total of homicides among Atlanta Negroes for the year ending 1946—a figure which focuses without a doubt, their flagrant and general disregard for human life, law and order as they shoot, stab and beat each other to death in an unending frenzy of crime year after year. Even more appalling is that the majority of the crimes were almost invariably motivated by such petty and insignificant factors as: a gambling debt of a few cents, a drink of whiskey or jealousy and misunderstanding.

The homicide rate among the whites for the year is approximately 10; yet they constitute two-thirds of the total population, while Negroes constitute the remaining one-third population.

HOMICIDES SKYROCKET

A survey of homicides of previous years discloses that during the pre-war years the percentage rate of homicides was at a very high level. It decreased, however, during the war years and then ZOOM—with this year, the first post war year—it took a skyrocketing rise of approximately 50 per cent, approaching its pre-war level.

It is noted, however, that among the whites the rate was held at a low ebb, fluctuating only slightly from year to year.

The summary of homicides of previous years follows:

Year	Colored	White
1938	94	13
1939	90	9
1940	100	10
1941	107	9
1942	76	8
1943	42	12
1944	50	20
1945	76	15

Wed. 1-1-47

In breaking down the assault weapons used in total homicides the following tabulation resulted: 55 victims met death by firearms, 33 by knives, 5 by blunt instruments and 2 by axe.

These tabulations vary conversely with last year's tabulations in that the major weapon for last year's homicides was the knife which accounted for 61%, the gun only 31%.

There were two cases of slayings by policemen during the year, and in both cases the officers were released on copy. Disposition of both cases was justifiable homicide.

Also, three Negroes were killed by white civilians, and in all cases the assailants were released on copy (not jailed). Disposition in all cases was justifiable homicide.

There were two homicide-suicides for the year. Daily World

Disposition of a large majority of the homicides was adjudged justifiable homicides. One assailant was sentenced to death by chair. There were three life sentences; a few were sentenced to a few years in prison, and one termed accidental death. Disposition of other cases is pending. Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 1-1-47

The two most prominent homicides that caused considerable public interest and indignation were those involving two streetcar motormen who were released on copy and later exonerated.

Dominican Is Slain By Florida Officer

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

BUNNELL, FLA., Nov. 2—(U.P.)—A nephew of the President of the Dominican Republic and a veteran of the United States Army, was killed here last midnight by a deputy, acting in self-defense, Sheriff Henry Wells said today. Sun. 11-3-46

The Dominican Consul in Miami came here tonight to investigate details of the case and report back to his government and the family of Jose Adriano Trujillo Seijas, the victim. He was an adopted son of President Rafael Trujillo's brother.

Wells said an argument began at a restaurant where Lewis Henry Todd, a Jamaican and a companion of young Trujillo, demanded service, but was refused on color grounds. Deputy Sheriff M. R. Peters was sent to the scene after a disturbance developed.

Peters fired while young Trujillo was waving a pistol, and after he was warned to put it down, Wells reported. He was cleared at an inquest held shortly after the occurance.

Trujillo, recently discharged from the Army, was driving with Todd, from New York to Miami, and planned to fly to Ciudad, Trujillo.

Kin of Island Chief Killed by Fla. Cop

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 11-9-46

BUNNELL, Fla.—Jose Adrian Trujillo Seijas, 20, nephew by adoption of President Rafeal Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, was killed instantly here Friday night by Deputy Sheriff Miller Teeter, after Trujillo and his companion, Louis Henry Todd of Jamaica, B.W.I., were refused service at a cafe.

The tragedy, a direct result of discrimination against people of color, regardless of nationality, in public places in the South, precipitated a diplomatic incident.

Under direct orders from President Trujillo, the Dominican consul at Miami, Jose M. Noel, arrived here Saturday to investigate the circumstances leading up to the murder.

Police Story of Shooting

Sheriff Henry Wells admitted that his deputy did the shooting and announced that a coroner's jury found the officer fired in self-defense. The sheriff gave this version of the gunplay:

Trujillo, who was driving from New York to Miami while on terminal leave from the United States Army, and his companion Todd, stopped at the cafe just before midnight and were refused service "because they were thought to be colored."

The men insisted that they be served, whereupon the sheriff was summoned. Deputy Teeter was assigned to the scene.

Found Seated in Car

The Afro-American

He testified at the inquest that he found Trujillo seated in his car with Todd standing nearby. He said he shot Trujillo through the chest when he drew a pistol and was told twice to put it away.

Before leaving Miami, the Dominican consul talked by overseas telephone with Anibal Trujillo, brother of the President, and called the shooting "a tragic occurrence," adding "this is a very great shock."

Baltimore, Md.

A State Department official in Florida had been advised of the development, it was reported, but Walter W. Walters, representative of the State Department at Miami, was away on vacation. Sat. 11-9-46

Young Trujillo was adopted when a child by Anibal Trujillo and the honor of the family name was conferred upon him. He continued to use his prior name, Seijas, for his formal signature.

Jimcrow Death Brings Protest

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

BUNNELL, Fla., Nov. 3.—An official of the Dominican Republic last night termed "unfortunate" the killing of the nephew of his country's president here Friday night by a deputy sheriff following a disturbance in a cafe over Jimcrow restrictions.

Jose Nouel, Dominican consul in Miami, conferred with Sheriff Henry Wells here but said an official statement on the death of Jose Adrano Trujillo Seijas would have to be cleared by government officials at home. The 21-year-old youth, a U. S. Army veteran, was the adopted son of President Rafael Trujillo's brother. Mon.

Sheriff Wells said the shooting take place in a local cafe where Trujillo and Lew Henry Todd, a Jamaican with whom he was travelling, had been refused service. Witnesses said the two men objected when a waitress told them to "go around to the back," if they wanted to be served.

Trujillo was seated in the pair's parked car when Deputy Sheriff M. R. Peters arrived in answer to a telephoned summons. The two men engaged in brief conversation and then the deputy shot Trjillo in the chest. Peters was cleared by the coroner's jury when he said he fired in self-defense. 11-4-46

The National Equal Rights League yesterday wired President Truman asking that he act against Deputy Sheriff Miller Teader who killed the nephew of the Dominican Republic's president.

Trujillo Sends Consul To Investigate Slaying Of Nephew By Sheriff

The News-Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.
Sun. 11-3-46

Dominican Youth Killed In Florida Near Cafe Where Service Withheld

BY E. V. W. JONES

BUNNELL, Fla., Nov. 2—(AP)—Dominican Consul Jose M. Noel hurried here Saturday night under direct orders from the presidential palace at Trujillo City to determine why Jose Adrian Trujillo Seijas, 20, a nephew by adoption of the president of the Dominician Republic, was killed by a policeman's blazing gun.

Noel held an overseas telephone conversation with Anibal Trujillo, brother of the strong man of the Caribbean, President Rafael Trujillo, and left Miami for Bunnell to begin the probe.

YOUNG TRUJILLO, 20, was shot Friday night as he was driving from New York to Miami while on terminal leave from the United States Army. Sheriff Henry Wells said the shooting was done by a deputy, Miller Teeter, and a coroner's jury found that Teeter fired in self-defense.

Before leaving Miami, the consul termed the shooting "a tragic occurrence" and added: "This is a very great shock."

The youth was adopted as a child by Anibal Trujillo and, Noel pointed out, "upon him was conferred the honor of the Trujillo name."

PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION, the youth was named Seijas which he continued to use in his formal signature.

Sheriff Wells gave this version of the shooting:

Trujillo and a companion, listed as Louis Henry Todd, a Jamaican, stopped at a cafe just before midnight and were refused service because they were thought to be Negroes. They argued that they should be served, and the sheriff was called.

Deputy Teeter was sent to the scene. He found Trujillo seated in his car with Todd standing nearby.

Teeter testified at the inquest that Trujillo drew a pistol, was told twice to put it away, and then was shot through the chest. He died instantly.

Tragic Mistaken Identity

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

The slaying last week by a Florida deputy sheriff of Jose, Adrian Trujillo Seijas, adopted nephew of President Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, may well become an international incident.

In company with a Jamaican friend, the youth had been refused service at a cafe, because, it was reported, attendants "thought that they were colored." In a dispute which followed, young Seijas was fatally shot. Sat. 11-9-46

Dixie's discrimination pattern which puts no value upon a dark skin, is exposed in all of its viciousness by this tragedy. In this case, however, it will be hard to apply the usual whitewash brush, with the State Department entering the case. The value of human life, we predict, will rise sharply as a result.

Death Penalty for Color

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

If Jose Adrian Trujillo Seijas, 20, nephew by adoption of the President of San Domingo, had possessed a white skin, he would be alive today.

But he was colored and in Florida it is a criminal offense for a colored person to seek service in a downtown public restaurant. Sat. 11-23-46

Young Trujillo was killed by a deputy sheriff with the cock-eyed name of Miller Teeter.

Teeter probably has been in the habit of pushing colored people around, shooting them when they dared ask for food in a public restaurant, railroad or bus station.

Teeter is surprised to find himself in hot water today for merely having killed a "colored man."

The usual lie has been invented, namely that Trujillo had a gun.

Don't believe a word of it.

Trujillo was killed for being colored.

The incident brings home to South American neighbors and to United Nations delegates how insecure life is in the United States for minority groups, and how meaningless are our boasts about "democracy."

Indemnity doubtless will be demanded by San Domingo. Teeter should do a stretch in jail. The nation loses international dignity because the moronic section of America keeps putting its foot in its own mouth.

U.S. Apologizes For Slaying Of Trujillo Nephew

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 11-16-46

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — With United States prestige injured by the murder of the nephew and adopted son of President Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, slain last week when a Bunnell, Fla., deputy sheriff, mistook the youth for a Negro, the State Department this week sent two apologies to the Dominican government.

Dark-skinned Jose Adrian Trujillo Seijas, 20, was slain when he and Louis H. Todd, a Jamacian companion, sought food in a white cafe and were refused because they were assumed to be Negro. Young Trujillo, was shot by Deputy Sheriff Miller Teeter as the Dominican and his companion sat in their car in front of the white cafe.

A coroner's jury absolved Teeter of blame by issuing a statement to the effect that the deputy fired "in self defense."

Trujillo's body was sent to Miami by train and was flown from there Tuesday afternoon to Trujillo City, capital of the Dominican Republic. Trujillo, who was on terminal leave from the U. S. Army, was in uniform when shot by the trigger-happy sheriff.

Florida Jim Crow Killing "Justified"

The Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

MIAMI — (ANP) — Dixie justice ran true to form when Gov. Millard Caldwell notified the state department that the jim crow slaying of the nephew of the President of the Dominican Republic, Jose A. Trujillo, was done in "self defense." Trujillo was shot and killed in Bunnell, Fla., Nov. 1, during an argument over jim crow seating in a cafe. Sat 11-7-46

Upon the governor's request, Murray Sams, state's attorney, investigated the shooting. According to his findings, Trujillo, an army veteran, twice pointed a pistol at Deputy Sheriff M. R. Teeter during an argument, and Teeter then shot in self-defense. A coroner's jury found that Teeter "acted justifiably and in self-defense."

Courier Gets Facts On Killing By Sheriff

The Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
By JOHN A. DIAZ
(Florida Bureau)

MIAMI, Fla.—Louis Henry Todd, Dominican citizen, who was put out of a restaurant in Bunnell, Fla., Nov. 1, together with the nephew of the Dominican President Trujillo, before Jose Adrian Trujillo, the young Dominican. Fla., from New York to board This is all contrary to the accounts given the press by the public. After driving for many

hours, tired and hungry, they entered a restaurant at Bunnel, Fla., about thirty-two miles from St. Augustine, for something to eat.

SHOVED OUT OF RESTAURANT

They were refused service because of their color. Trujillo was of the Spanish type in complexion and hair. Todd is darker, and could not be mistaken for white, or even Spanish white. In hair texture and complexion he is what is known in the United States as Negro. Surprised at the refusal of food, they became indignant and protested to the employes of the restaurant, who actually shoved them out.

Todd then called a male employe out to fight, when he failed to come out, he and Truillo entered their car, a Caddilac sedan, which was parked in front of a gas station. The car was about to pull off when the deputy sheriff came and started to use abusive words to them, saying, "Don't you n--rs know that you can't eat in these restaurants—you can get food only through the back door?"

HAD GUN IN HAND

Trujillo had his gun in his hand, not pointing at the sheriff, Todd stated. He also said that Trujillo had no knowledge that the sheriff was a law offecr, and that before Trujillo had chance to move his hand he was shot through the breast and died instantly.

Scared, Todd tried to get away. The deputy said to him, "I ought to kill you, too!" Then the mechanics in the garage nearby started to beat him with their tools and fractured his finger. The deputy sheriff pulled him away from a mob that was gathering.

A coroner's jury, at the inquest, without Todd, decided that the deputy sheriff shot in self defense, and he was exonerated.

CONSUL INVESTIGATING

Jose M. Lovaton and Jose M. Nouel, consul and consul general, respectively, of the Dominican Republic in Miami, told The Pittsburgh Courier's representative that they were making a thorough investigation of the incident with a view to having justice done. They said that they believed the killing was unwarranted, as Trujillo was not the type to threaten anyone with a gun, and that he was honorably discharged from the United States Army with American Theatre and Good Conduct Ribbons.

Young Trujillo attended the New York Military Academy before he enlisted in the U. S. Army in August 1944. He served as a private and was separated on July 1, 1946. He was 21 years old.

Todd, his companion and friend from boyhood, has been in the States one year and four months and is registered with the Department of Justice as an alien. He now lives in Miami, Fla.

BODY SHIPPED HOME

The State Department has apologized twice to the Dominican Republic, and has asked Governor Millard F. Caldwell of Florida to submit a report on the fatal shooting.

The body of Trujillo arrived in Miami Nov. 5, en route to the Dominican Republic. It lay for six hours in a funeral home, where it was viewed by members of the family. The casket was placed aboard a plane for Cuidad Trujillo, Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic, situated between Cuban and Puerto Rico, occupies the eastern portion of the Island of Santo Domingo, of which Haiti occupies the western part.

Sat. 11-16-46

Governor's Report

The Courier

TRUJILLO SLAYING JUSTIFIED

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 12-7-46

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — (NNPA) — Gov. Millard Caldwell announced that he has notified the State Department that the killing of Jose A. Trujillo Seijas, nephew of President Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, by a deputy sheriff who mistook him for a colored American, was justifiable and in self-defense.

The fatal shooting occurred in Bunnell, Fla., Nov. 1, after young Trujillo and a companion had been refused service in a restaurant because they were thought to be colored Americans. In his report to Acting Secretary of State Dean Atcheson, Governor Caldwell said young Trujillo and his companion were told to go to the back of the cafe.

TETERS EXONERATED

According to the report, the deputy sheriff, R. Teters, shot young Seijas in line of duty during an argument over Florida's jim-crow law, which requires race segregation in all public places.

An inquiry into the killing by State Attorney Murray Sams, made at the direction of Governor Caldwell, placed the blame for the shooting on young Seijas, who, it was said, pointed a German automatic pistol at Teters before the latter fired the fatal shot. The report stated that Teters pleaded with young Seijas twice to put down the pistol.

A coroner's jury found that the death of Seijas was caused by a wound from a pistol fired by Teters, who acted justifiably and in self-defense.

General

16b 1946

Race Homicides Ahead Of Whites

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (SNS)— Homicides among Negroes in Jefferson county continue monthly to out run those by whites, with the Feb., report by Coronor Joe I Hilderbrand reflecting this turned.

Com 3-17-46

Six of the seven Feb., homicides investigated by Mr. Hilderbrand were Negroes, his report said. This report added that six of the 17 accident victims were Negroes and one of the five suicide victims was a Negro.

16b 1946

Japanese, by Negroes

Life Imprisonment For Killing Jap

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

YOKOHAMA, Japan—(ANP) — A military court here has ordered life imprisonment for Pfc. Robert Dickens after finding him guilty of slaying a Japanese civilian with a baseball bat in Tokyo on Nov. 18. Dickens was defended by Lt. Samuel Patterson, Aurora, Ill., who practiced law in civilian life.

Charles Ward, of Peabody, Kansas, white, who was the prosecutor charged that Dickens, a native of Hernando, Tenn., smashed Kajiro Kimino's skull with the bat in downtown Tokyo as he was standing on the sidewalk when the defendant passed in company with two other soldiers.

S-2-27-46

No reason was indicated for the attack on the Japanese. After Kimino was hit, he is reported to have staggered home where he died.

Dickens was a member of a quartermaster unit here. He has been overseas 31 months and served in New Guinea and the Philippines before his transfer to Japan.

Vets Campaign for Slain Buddies

Afro American Baltimore, Md. Sat 4-6-46

Ask Probe of Killing by MP's in France

NEW YORK.—A Congressional investigation of the deaths of two soldiers, slain by guards at a Red Cross Club in France, and reversal of an Army decision denying pensions to their widows was demanded here this week.

A group of World War II veterans, buddies of the two dead soldiers, have formed the Veterans' Justice Committee, and are campaigning to bring to light the facts in the slaying of T/5 Frank Glenn and Pfc. Allen Leftridge.

Killers Freed

The fatal shootings took place May 22, 1945, at Camp Lucky Strike, near St. Valery, France. Subsequent court-martial proceedings, held at Camp Texas, France, absolved the two white guards involved.

A third soldier, white, was accidentally killed when Glenn and Leftridge were deliberately shot, the committee pointed out, but the Army has not penalized his family financially as it has those of the two colored soldiers.

The Veterans' Justice Committee, meeting Thursday in Brooklyn, through its chairman, Alfred A. Duckett, characterized the shootings as "murder," charging that Leftridge and Glenn, both unarmed, were "shot down in cold blood."

Shot for Mingling

The committee chairman says the soldiers were shot because they were in a Red Cross mess tent where some French girls were making sandwiches and coffee.

He advises that he has an eyewitness's account to present which states that neither of the two guards gave warning that they would fire their pistols point-blank at the men.

Secret Orders

Duckett avers that French people on the post had told him afterward that MP guards had been issued orders to prevent colored soldiers from talking to civilian women employees.

Some of the French women were later fired from their jobs because they had been "too friendly" with Tan Yanks, he stated.

Widow Not Told

Duckett pointed out that Mrs. Sarah Leftridge, 1070 Stebbins Ave., Bronx, widow of one of the soldiers killed, had known nothing of the circumstances of her husband's death until she read of it in a weekly paper.

She had received a letter from Major General Wittsell for the Adjutant General, informing her that Leftridge had been shot because he failed to obey the order of an armed guard.

Pension Withheld

Since the death had been "due to his own misconduct," it was ruled "not in line of duty," and she did not receive six months' gratuity pay, nor a widow's pension, the chairman stated.

Families Suffer

Mrs. Leftridge is supporting a one-and-a-half-year-old child on her husband's insurance allowance of $55.10 monthly. Having no one to care for the baby, she cannot work, he advised.

The VJC has sent a telegram to the widow of Frank Glenn in Port Arthur, Tex., informing her of its intention to fight her cause and asking particulars of her situation.

Sat 4-6-46

White's Death Vain

"The VJC is interested not only in the deaths of our two comrades, the chairman's statement continued:

"We are also interested in the fact that a white technical sergeant, who had been in a German prison camp for a year, was accidentally killed in the shooting affray."

Blames Higher-Ups

The committee's statement charges that in Camp Lucky Strike, the guards were indoctrinated to prevent interracial mixing and that their brutality stemmed from the attitudes of the commanders who ordered them "to keep colored soldiers in their places."

Charges White-Wash

It asserts that if the guards had been convicted in the court martial, automatically "the policies of some pretty high-ranking people would have been under close scrutiny."

VJC is asking Congressman Adam C. Powell and other leaders of both races to join its campaign to demand justice for the families of the slain soldiers, who, it maintains, were victims of racism of the most virulent kind.

The temporary office of the VJC is at 504 Macon St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Most of the members of the committee are former soldiers in the 1310th Engineer General Service Regiment, to which Glenn and Leftridge also belonged.

Sat 4-6-46

PFC. AND MRS. LEFTRIDGE

FRENCH MP KILLS NEGRO GI

Daily Workers New York, N.Y.

FRANKFURT, May 16 (UP).—The Army newspaper **Stars and Stripes** reported from Ludwigshafen today that an American Negro soldier was shot and killed there Tuesday by a French military policeman.

French and American authorities are conducting a joint investigation.

The paper quoted Sgt. James Madison, New Brunswick, N. J., as saying that he and the Negro victim were returning to their station in Mannheim after walking into Ludwigshafen when an unmarked sedan stopped beside them and a French policeman jumped out.

Madison said the French soldier ordered them to halt. The Negro raised his hands and stepped backward off the street. The Frenchman shot the soldier in the chest The bullet killed the Negro GI immediately.

Fri 5-17-46

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Wed. 6-28-46

Aid Widow of GI Slain by MP: Sarah Leftridge, whose soldier husband was killed by a military guard in France, gets a $200 check from Roy Soden, first Negro candidate for Congress from the Bronx. In her mother's arms is two-year-old Carolan, who does not understand yet the tragedy of her family, while (left) Alfred A. Duckett, chairman of the Veterans Justice Committee and (extreme right) publisher Ludlow W. Werner of the New York Age look on. The Veterans Justice Committee is trying to get a pension for Mrs. Leftridge.

VETS ASK KKK SHEETS FOR LEFTRIDGE WIDOW

Defender Chicago, Ill. 16b

Sat. 11-30-46

NEW YORK—The Veterans' Justice Committee this week found a new use for the bedsheets of the Ku Klux Klan.

In an open letter to Grand Cyclops "Doc" Green, the vets asked a voluntary contribution of the brotherhood's "uniform" to the 22-year-old widow and orphan of Pfc. Allen Leftridge, victim of Jim Crow tactics in the United States Army.

Since the War Department will not concede that the murder of Leftridge in France on May 22, 1945, by hate-filled military guards at the Red Cross Club, was "in line of duty," Mrs. Leftridge has little means of support for herself and her 2-year-old daughter.

The Grand Wizard of the Klan is told, in the vets' letter, how Mrs. Leftridge, without resources in the face of her husband's death, growing out of Klan tactics carried overseas by our troops of liberation, lives in a practically unfurnished flat in Brooklyn. Her only funds are a $15 a week insurance allotment.

She and Carolyn need many things. Bedclothes against the winter's cold are among important items. What more worthy memorial to a victim of their dogmas could the Klan offer than sheets, the veterans suggest.

Amsterdam News New York, N.Y. Sat. 8 - 31-46

HELP GI'S WIDOW: Roy Sodon, union official presents check for $200 to Mrs. Sarah Leftridge, widow of Pfc. Allen Leftridge, who, along with T/5 Frank Glenn, was killed "without benefit of challenge or warning by American Military guards who were under prejudiced orders to prevent Negro soldiers from holding conversations with French civilian women employees at the Red Cross Club at Camp Lucky Strife, St. Valery, France May 22, 1945. The money was contributed to defray six months rental at the Stebbins Avenue apartment where the widow lives with her young child. Efforts are being made to have the Veterans Administration recognize Mrs. Leftridge's claim for compensation. An organized effort is being made to raise $10,000 for the family.

16b 1946

Negroes, by MP's (Germany)

Unarmed GI Slain by MP's in Germany

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 11-16-46

BY DOUGLASS HALL

BERLIN, Germany—The ugly head of Military Police brutality is raised again in this German capital. This time an ex-combat man, Pvt. Donald Moody, Albion, Mich., is the victim.

He died on Oct. 29 at the 79th Station Hospital with a bullet wound through his stomach, inflicted by white MP's.

There are no colored MP's on duty here and there have never been. At one time colored soldiers would ride with white MP's to serve as "buffers" but they were never permitted to wear MP insignia or uniform, nor carry a pistol.

Boast About Shooting

Private Moody, who served in England, France, and Germany, was disorderly in the street located near his company area. it was reported.

MP's were summoned and upon arrival ordered Moody to enter their jeep. Moody, who was unarmed, refused and the shooting occurred.

"I arrived on the scene shortly after the shot was fired," one witness stated, "and asked what had happened."

"We got one of your men," stated an MP, who was reloading his pistol.

Cold-Blooded Killing

"I then raced a few yards further and Moody was laying on the ground with an MP holding a gun over him. Then, shot and bloody Moody rose to his feet.

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

"He said he wanted to get the MP who shot him. By this time the MP had put another bullet in the chamber and started to fire another shot—but I asked him not to.

"I told him I would take care of Moody. We then carried Moody to the hospital. I was there when they cut his clothes and he did not have a weapon of any kind."

Claim Vet Had Rock

According to reports the white MP is claiming that he shot Moody is self defense . . . that Moody had a rock in his hand. There were three MP's on the scene at the time.

Sat. 11-16-46

Investigation is being made by the Army. Moody's body is being held pending word from his aunt, Mrs. Reba Hughes, 903 Austin St., Albion, Mich. His father is thought to be in Detroit.

Private Moody was born at Jefferson, Ga., on Sept. 6, 1925. He enlisted in the Army on Nov. 22, 1943, and left the United States in May, 1944, arriving in Great Britain on June 4.

16b 1946

Negroes, by MP's (Washington)

MP Kills Soldier in Northwest PX

The Afro American

FORT LEWIS, (Wash.) — Army authorities said no further investigation is planned in the case of Pvt. Willis G. Jones, 22, of Tuskegee, Ala., who was shot and killed here Saturday night by Pfc. Edward Jackson Jr., a white military policeman.

Baltimore, Md.

The Army's criminal investigation division reported Sunday morning that the MP killed Jones in the "line of duty," when he ignored his order to leave the post exchange at North Fort at the 10 p.m. closing time.

Sat. 12-14-46

The report said Jones protested the MP's order, pulled out a knife, and chased him across the room. Jackson fell, drew his revolver, and fired several rounds, one of which struck Jones in the abdomen.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Policemen

Negro Holdup Suspect Resists Arrest, Is Shot

The News

Wed. 12-23-46

GADSDEN, Ala., Dec. 23—A 44-year-old Negro robbery suspect was shot and killed instantly at Attalla last night while resisting arrest, Gadsden Police Chief Fay Boman said today.

The suspect, A. D. Mallory, alias Jack King, was shot after Chief of Detectives B. J. Wright attempted to apprehend him on charges of highway robbery, Chief Boman said.

Birmingham, Ala.

The police chief said Mallory was wanted at Anniston and at Chattanooga for highway robbery and that he had served a term for the same offense in North Carolina.

Coroner Jess Cox, Etowah County, said the Negro died instantly.

Deplorable And Discouraging

Birmingham News 2-12-46

The shooting of a Negro ex-service man by a Brighton police officer was a very unfortunate occurrence tending to add to the tensions of a situation that can be improved only if all persons continually keep in mind the need of cooperation and tolerance and understanding. 2-12-46

There are many elements in the case, all of which can be aggravated harmfully by undue yielding to emotion.

Segregation was a factor in the case. Apparently the Negro did not understand that one of the purposes of segregation is to prevent incidents like that which culminated in his death. Perhaps, in this case, the segregation sign was unwisely placed. Not all employes on public transportation vehicles are fair and impartial—and probably cannot always be—in attending to the movable signs that separate the races. From the published evidence in this case, it is not clear whether there was any provocation for the Negro's action in moving the sign himself.

The Negro is reported to have been belligerent in the matter. His attitude was wrong for many reasons, one of which is that it hurt the cause of steadily building up better race relations through cooperative efforts.

Another factor in the situation was the fact that the Negro was unarmed, both in his fight with the streetcar conductor and at the time of his arrest. He had no gun when he was shot by the officer. It is always a serious matter when a police officer kills an unarmed prisoner in his custody.

The Negro apparently was not searched for a weapon immediately upon his arrest. Generally the first thing a policeman does after making an arrest involving violence is to "frisk" the prisoner for weapons. There should have been no reason to fear, after the Negro was in the police car, that he was reaching for a gun. 2-12-46

The coroner's verdict that the slaying of the prisoner was justified should not end the matter. There should be further official investigation.

Man Attacking Police With Ax, Shot To Death

Birmingham Ala. News

A 24-year-old Negro man was shot and killed and a 30-year-old Negro woman wounded in the shoulder by City Policemen R. C. Casey and J. H. Aldrich, after the Negro man had advanced on the two officers brandishing an ax, the officers reported today. 2-10-46

The officers stated this morning tat they had answered a complaint call from 707 12th Street, Ensley, about 1 a.m. today and after arriving found the Negro man, alias Willie James Lillian and woman, Willie Lillie and Mary Pleasant.

The officers said they started questioning the Negro man after he butted in and began arguing with the woman the officers were talking with. The officers warned the Negro to "move back" and "stay out" of the argument and the Negro then, the officers said, attacked Officer Casey and later bit Officer Aldrich on the arm when he went to the assistance of Casey.

* * *

THE NEGRO, ACCORDING TO OFFICERS ALDRICH and Casey, then broke away and ran into another room returning swinging an ax and advanced on the officers with the ax upraised. The officers said they then opened fire and the Negro woman, officers said, was wounded when she ran into the line of fire laid down by the officers to stop the Negro.

Both Negroes were taken to TCI Hospital for emegency treatment, transferred to Hillman Hospital for further treatment, with Little finally reaching the Jefferson Hospital operating room where he died about 8 a.m. The Negro woman was not admitted. 2-10-46

A Signal 40 broadcast by the police radio station at 1:40 a.m. was answered by five patrol cars from the Birmingham district after officers sent a call for assistance, which was found not needed.

Both officers were ordered by Police Chief Eddins to take medical treatment for the injury inflicted upon them by the Negro, one officer requiring treatment for a bite in the arm and the other for an injury to his ear.

Negro War Veteran Is Slain By Police Chief

Montgomery, Ala Advertiser

BESSEMER, ALA., Feb. 9.—(AP)—A Negro war veteran was shot and killed by the police chief at nearby Brighton last night following an affray involving the Negro and a street car motorman, Deputy Coroner T. J. McCullon reported today. 2-10-46

He identified the Negro as Timothy Hood, Bessemer, an ex-Marine, and said he was killed by Brighton Police Chief G. B. Fant.

McCullon said he had returned a finding of justifiable homicide.

The coroner said the Negro and the motorman, whom he identified as W. R. Weeks, had engaged in a quarrel on a Bessemer-Birmingham trolley, and added that both had alighted from the trolley near Brighton and had exchanged several blows. Sun.

Chief Fant said he was attracted to the scene by the firing of several shots, and added that he shot the Negro when the latter "made a motion as if to draw a weapon." The bullet entered the Negro's head, the officer declared. 2-10-46

CAN THE NEGRO BE CONTENT?

Birmingham Age Herald

To the Editor of The News:

Courts have been set up in our city and our state to determine those guilty of lawbreaking and to sentence the guilty to just punishment. Yet a Negro Marine veteran, Timothy Hood, was not given the opportunity to appear before the court. He was shot down in the street after arrest by an officer of the law, Chief E. B. Fant. The officer in this case took the rights of the court and the judge into his own hands. That the Jefferson County solicitor and Coroner T. J. McCollum agreed that this was a case of "justifiable homicide" illustrates once more the unequal justice with which Negroes are treated in Alabama. 2-15-46

A few days ago Sen. John Bankhead told the nation that the Negro people of the South are content and satisfied with conditions in the South. Can any Negro be content and satisfied when he knows that officers of the law have no more respect for his life than this? It is about time for those who dislike adverse criticism of the South to do something to promote equal and exact justice and democracy for all, regardless of race.

DR. J. M. BYAS.

2724½ 29th Avenue, North.

Voice Of The People

HOPE OF NEGRO VETERANS

Alabama Birmingham News 2-18-46

To the Editor of The News:

We wish to commend you for the very fair editorial which was carried in the newspaper about the shooting of Timothy Hood, recently discharged Negro Marine. We Negro veterans fought in the recent war for true American democracy. We would like to feel that the sacrifices which we made have not been in vain. We hope that it is the intention of the officials of the state to grant equal and exact justice to all men regardless of race, color or creed. MONDAY ROBERT E. JONES.

Veterans' Secretary, Southern Negro Youth Congress.

ESCAPEE DEATH HELD JUSTIFIED

Birmingham age Herald

A verdict of justifiable homicide was returned in the death of a 24-year-old escaped Negro convict, who was shot and killed by Police Officers R. C. Casey and J. H. Aldrich early yesterday morning after the Negro advanced on the two official brandishing an ax, Coroner Joe L. Hilderbrand said.

The Negro was identified by police as Willie Little, alias Willie James Little, alias Willie Charles. Little, police records show, escaped from Ketona state prison camp last November, where he was serving as a trusty on a laundry truck.

A Negro woman, Mary Pheasant, 30, was wounded slightly in the shoulder when she stepped into the line of fire laid down by Officers Casey and Aldrich, police said. 2-20-46

The two officers said they were answering a complaint to a residence at 707 12th Street, Ensley, where they found Little and the woman.

The two officers asserted that they started to question the Negro after he broke into their conversation with the woman. The Negro man was warned to stay out of the conversation and to "move back," the police officers declared.

Little then ran into another room and returned with an ax, the officers asserted. When he advanced with the ax upraised, Officers Casey and Aldrich said they opened fire and fatally wounded the Negro man and slightly wounded the Negro woman.

Little died at Jefferson Hospital and the woman was given first aid at T. C. I. Hospital and dismissed.

EXONERATED CHIEF.—Brighton Chief of Police E. B. Fant.

Chief Is Exonerated Of Death Of Negro In Finding By Coroner

News Birmingham, Ala 2-10-46

A verdict of justifiable homicide was rendered yesterday by Bessemer Coroner J. T. McCollum in the death of Timothy Hood, recently-discharged Negro Marine, of 208 Exeter Avenue, Bessemer, who was fatally shot Friday night by Brighton Police Chief G. B. Fant after the Negro is alleged to have injured the motorman of a Bessemer streetcar during an argument.

W. R. Weeks, of 616 16th Street, Southwest, motorman on the streetcar, who is in St. Vincent's Hospital suffering severe head wounds, told officers the Negro moved the segregation sign on the Bessemer car he was operating Friday night as it reached Dartmouth Avenue and 27th Street, Bessemer.

The motorman said that he had drawn his gun on the Negro in an effort to prevent being attacked by the latter and that shortly afterwards he and the Negro were scuffling outside the car.

Chief Fant said he was in his home near the scene of the altercation when he heard several shots fired, and on investigating, saw a Negro man beating up a man he learned to be Mr. Weeks. The Negro fled the scene, but later was apprehended in a nearby house, Chief Fant declared.

The Negro was arrested and placed in a Bessemer police car that had arrived at the scene, Chief Fant related, and the chief said Hood made a move as if to get a gun when he was asked if he had shot the motorman. At this point, Chief Fant said, he shot the Negro once in the head, killing him instantly. 2-10-46

The chief said that when the body was taken to an undertaking establishment in Bessemer, it was discovered Hood had been shot, presumably by the motorman, three times in the body.

Mr. Weeks' condition was described as fair at St. Vincent's Hosptial yesterday afternoon.

Finding In Negro's Slaying Is Upheld

Birmingham News Alabama

The finding of "justifiable homicide," returned by Coroner J. T. McCollum in the fatal shooting of Timothy Hood, Negro, 208 Exeter Avenue, Bessemer, Friday night, after an altercation on a Bessemer streetcar, was concurred in by Arthur Green, Jefferson County solicitor, Bessemer Cutoff, yesterday.

Solicitor Green said investigation by his office showed the Negro, a discharged Marine Corps veteran, was shot by Police Chief E. B. Fant, of Brighton, when, as the officer attempted to arrest him, the Negro reached toward his hip pocket as if to draw a gun. 2-13-46

Solicitor Green said Chief Fant attempted to arrest the Negro, after an altercation between the Negro and W. R. Weeks, 616 16th Street, Southwest, motorman on a Bessemer streetcar, in which the Negro suffered three superficial gunshot wounds, and the motorman suffered lacerations and bruises.

Coroner Terms Shooting As Justifiable Homocide

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 6.—(AP)—Coroner Joe L. Hilderbrand returned today a verdict of justifiable homicide in the death of Harrision Lee, 39-year-old Negro barber shop operator, who was fatally wounded in a gun battle with two police officers.

Condition of Patrolman J. A. Hale, 31, wounded by Lee in the gun battle last night, was reported good at a hospital. Hale was hit in the left arm and right leg. Wed.

City detective Jamie Moore said Hale and Patrolman F. R. Brockman went to Lee's shop on the downtown district after Lee had shot him in the leg near the radio car was stopped by during an altercation.

Ala. Vet Slain; Shifted Jimcrow Sign

Daily Worker

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 17.—An honorably discharged Negro Marine was dead today because he attempted to pull down a Jimcrow sign in a streetcar. Slaying was called "justifiable homicide."

The veteran, Timothy Hood of Bessemer, Ala., was killed Feb. 8 by Brighton Chief of Police G. B. Fant. Mon. 2-18-46

Hood had moved the sign separating the Negro from the white section of the streetcar he was riding. The conductor, W. R. Weeks, told him not to do it.

Police Chief Fant said he heard shots outside his home in Brighton near the streetcar line. When he rushed there, he found Motorman Weeks lying on the ground. Fant's implication was that the motorman had been, as one of the papers here puts it, "apparently shot or wounded."

Weeks later admitted that he had fired five shots at the veteran.

(Three bullets, one from Fant's gun, were later found in Hood's body.) New York, N.Y.

Fant heard that Hood was in a nearby house, wounded. The chief went there, arrested the veteran and placed him in a police car.

Fant claimed Hood then reached for a weapon. The police chief fired a single shot into Hood's brain.

Bessemer Coroner J. T. McColum reported "justifiable homicide."

STREETCAR KILLING HELD 'JUSTIFIABLE'

Birmingham Age-Herald

Arthur Green, Jefferson County solicitor, Bessemer cutoff, said yesterday that his office concurred with Coroner T. J. McCollum's finding of "justifiable homicide," returned by the latter in the shooting of Timothy Hood, Negro, 208 Exeter Avenue, Bessemer, Friday night, following an altercation on a Bessemer streetcar.

Solicitor Green said that investigation by his office showed that the Negro, a discharged Marine Corps veteran, was shot by Police Chief E. B. Fant of Brighton, when, as the officer attempted to arrest him, the Negro reached toward his hip pocket as though to draw a gun. 2-12-46

Solicitor Green said that Chief Fant attempted to arrest the Negro following an altercation between the Negro and W. R. Weeks, 616 16th Street, Southwest, motorman on a Bessemer streetcar, in which the Negro suffered three superficial gunshot wounds, and the motorman suffered lacerations and bruises.

Negro Robber Suspect Killed By Policemen In Leap From Store

News Birmingham, Ala. Mon. 7-29-46

A rapidly-spreading police dragnet—touched off by a report of a safe burglary at a Woodlawn grocery—last night resulted in the death of a Negro suspect who was shot fatally as he leaped from the grocery store roof to an adjoining tree.

The Negro, identified as Leslie Anderson, 36, of 111 South 39th Street, was shot once in the chest and once in the right leg by Officer Roy Massey, one of more than a score of policemen who had ringed the area immediately after the alarm had been turned in.

Detective Capt. J. R. Norrell said the death of the Negro was expected to end the series of safe and store burglaries in the city in which on each occasion the burglar had entered through the roof. The Negro had escaped from Atmore Prison Camp on April 30, and had been sent up in 1940 after having been arrested on 24 cases of burglary and grand larceny, police records show.

The police dragnet was established after someone reported hearing noises inside the Hill Grocery Store at 5501 First Avenue, North. Police and detective cars were rushed to the scene and every possible escape route was covered. The Negro was pronounced dead on arrival at Hillman Hospital.

Inspection of the interior of the store revealed the Negro had cut a hole in the roof of the building, entered and had punched the combination off the company safe and was attempting to rip open the door when discovered, the officers said. Mon. 7-29-46

A hammer, a saw and a quantity of rope were on the Negro's person when he was shot, police said. Burglary tools were abandoned beside the safe.

Officers assisting in the case included Detectives C. F. Bachelder, Jamie Moore, C. L. Stevens, Joe Lindsey, W. M. Espy, E. E. Loveless, C. H. Huey and W. M. Prier, and Officers Massey, V. H. Butler, R. R. Richmond, J. W. Jones, W. C. Stephens and Lt. Marcus Hancock.

Negro Knifes Officers, And Is Fatally Injured

The Advertiser

JASPER, ALA., Dec. 2.—(AP)—Police Chief John Fitzpatrick reported today a Jasper Negro was fatally wounded a few seconds after he had slashed two local policemen with a knife, wounding one of them critically.

The two officers, Nelson Clark and Milton Posey, shot the Negro after they were wounded, the chief declared. Montgomery Ala

Clark received a deep throat wound and is reported near death in a hospital. The other officer, Milton Posey, was hospitalized with cuts about the left eye.

Chief Fitzpatrick identified the dead Negro as Henry Brown, Jr., 38, and said the incident occurred as the two patrolmen sought to search him after taking him in custody. Tues. 12-3-46

Negro Is Killed, Officer Injured In Shooting Fray

Altercation Is Started When Barber Fires Upon Investigators

News Birmingham, Ala.

8-6-46

A downtown gun battle in which more than a dozen shots were exchanged between a Negro barber, armed with an automatic pistol, and two city radio patrol officers resulted in fatal shooting of the Negro and wounding of Officer J. A. Hale, 31, in the left arm and leg.

Harrison Lee, 39, Negro operator of a barber shop at 212 North 26th Street, fell mortally wounded beneath a fusillade of bullets fired by Officers Hale and J. R. Brockman last night after the Negro had wounded another Negro and shot Officer Hale when he went to investigate, City Detectives, C. F. Batchelor and Jamie Moore reported.

A finding of justifiable homicide was returned today by Coroner Joe Hilderbrand in the fatal shooting of the Negro. Tues.

The detectives said their investigation showed that Officers Hale and F. R. Brockman were patroling in a police radio car in the vicinity of 26th Street and Second Avenue, North, when they were stopped by Robert Green, Negro, 306 North 26th Street, who informed them he had just been shot in the leg in an altercation with Harrison Lee, Negro, in the barber shop.

* * *

THE RADIO PATROL OFFICERS went immediately to the barber shop, and upon entering, found Harrison Lee, who told Officer Hale the "barber had gone down the street," the detectives said.

Officer Brockman then went back to the police car to get Robert Green, the shooting victim, to identify Lee as the man who had shot him.

He was returning to the shop when shots rang out and Officer Hale warned him that Harrison Lee was firing a pistol at them from the rear of the shop and that he (Hale) had already been shot, according to the detectives.

Both officers, the detectives said, emptied their pistols at the armed Negro who was using a P-38 German automatic revolver, one of many such revolvers brought back to this country by returning veterans as souvenirs following the war.

At the West End Baptist Hospital today attendants said Officer Hale had suffered a compound fracture of the left arm from a bullet wound and also a flesh wound of the left leg.

* * *

ROBERT GREEN, the other shooting victim of Lee, was taken to Hillman Hospital where attendants said he had suffered a flesh wound of the leg.

The body of Lee was found to contain several bullet wounds.

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Photos Page 13

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TWO STANDARDS OF JUSTICE

To the Editor of The News:

Even at this season of wonder and glory, of joy and jollity, of peace on earth and good will toward men, when the spirit of love and kindliness is supposed more especially to prevail, there are discordant notes in the news items of each day, stirring also memories of uncompleted news stories of this and the previous year which tend to bring the flush of shame to every true son of the South.

One such was your fine editorial in Saturday's News, "Georgia Lynching Still Unsolved," commenting on the Athens, Ga., case which happened several months ago. Four Negroes, three of whom were not even accused of any wrongdoing, were taken out and summarily shot to death by a mob of 20 armed white men. And neither the finding of a Federal Grand Jury, offered reward of $30,000 for information leading to conviction, nor the determined investigations of more than a score of FBI sleuths, has been competent to fasten guilt upon any person.

Last February, in the Bessemer district, an unarmed Negro was killed by the officer who had arrested him, and part of your editorial comment on this case was: "The coroner's verdict that the slaying of the prisoner was justified should not end the matter. There should be further official investigation." Of course, there was none. Birmingham, Ala.

This morning's paper carries a news item of another unarmed Negro prisoner shot to death, this time by a T. C. I. police officer. The prisoner had put his hand into his pocket! The first duty of a police officer is, or should be, both for his own safety and that of the prisoner, to search the latter for weapons. Was there ever any serious official effort of justice as well as the boasted freedom, but This is such an elementary measure of prudence that any officer neglecting this duty to mete justice in the Taylor case, which truth compels the shameful admission that the should be fired for incompetency. Afterocurred in September, 1944? Several prod-evidence points otherwise. J. MELANCON.
search the prisoner might run his hand into ding editorials and letters were published in 4235 5th Avenue, South.
his pocket for a match or handkerchief with-these papers, but without effect.
out furnishing an excuse for justifiable hom- Many other instances of the kind which

Tues. 12-13-46
The News

16b 1946

Negroes, by Policemen (Arkansas)

Disabled Vet Defender Slain In Dixie Chicago, Ill.

Shot By Cop After Bus Depot Argument

Sat. 8-17-46

HELENA, Ark.—Willie Henry, 29, of Chicago, a disabled veteran, was shot and killed recently by a Helena, Ark., policeman who was attempting to arrest him in connection with a bus station disturbance.

The policeman was exonerated by Deputy Prosecuting Atty. John L. Anderson who said he was satisfied the patrolman shot in self defense.

According to witnesses, Henry had fled from the bus station to an exvacation to avoid being beaten. He refused the policeman's order to come out of the pit reportedly for fear of being further beaten.

Local newspaper accounts state that Henry had thrown rocks at the policeman when told to surrender.

Henry, a veteran of two years in the South Pacific, allegedly became engaged in a dispute with Charles Brocato, owner of a bus lines, over the price of a bus ticket.

Beset by several bystanders. Henry fled and took refuge in the exvacation a block away. He was found there by a policeman, summoned by Brocato.

The policeman, witnesses are reported to have said, fired several warning shots when Henry refused to come out of the ditch. Henry reportedly told the policeman he feared being beaten to death.

After the shooting, a rope was thrown around Henry's body and he was dragged from the deep pit to a hospital where he died.

The victim's brother, Ezra Henry, of Chicago, who went to Helena to have Willie buried, said that the white undertaker did not allow him to see the body. He said the undertaker also kept Willie Henry's discharge papers.

Henry, who is the father of three young boys, was given a disability discharge from the army in February, 1944. He had been working near Helena for five months.

Crack Federal Lawyer Put On Florida Case

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 8-21-46

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA)—The Justice Department last Friday assigned Fred S. Rogers, one of its crack civil rights lawyers, to help prosecute a former Florida town marshall who allegedly subjected an aged prisoner to "trial by ordeal" and then forced the man to drown himself in the Suwanee River.

Mr. Rogers will assist United States District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips in the prosecution of Tom A. Crews, 42, ex-town marshal of Bransford, Florida, who is charged with violating the federal civil rights law in connection with the alleged slaying of Sam McFadden, 60-year-old farmhand, ni September, 1945.

The arraignment of Crews is scheduled to take place on September 17, next, in the federal court at Jacksonville, Florida, and the trial is set for October 1.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of one year in pris on and a fine of $1,000.

INDICTMENT REFUSED

A Florida grand jury refused to indict Crews in the death of McFadden. The information filed in the federal district court charges that Crews arrested McFadden on September 21, 1945, and subsequently took him to a point on the Suwanee River where the prisoner was beaten with a pistol and cow whip until he jumped into the river and drowned. The body was recovered about six weeks later.

The civil rights section under which Crews will be tried makes it a federal offense for any peace officer, under color of law, to deprive a person of his constitutional rights. Crews is charged specifically with depriving McFadden of his right to trial by jury and subjecting him to trial by ordeal.

Crews subsequently resigned as town marshal.

of violating the Constitution's civil rights section will begin Oct. 1.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a fine of $1,000. Thurs. 8-15-46

A Florida grand jury refused to indict Crews in the death of the Negro farmhand, Sam McFadden, 60 years old, who was drowned Sept. 21, 1945.

At the request of the Federal prosecutor in Jacksonville, Herbert S. Phillips, the Department of Justice assigned Fred S. Rogers, an attorney in the civil rights section, to assist in the prosecution.

The Federal information charges Crews arrested McFadden and then beat him with a whip and a pistol, finally forcing him to jump into the river. The body was recovered about six weeks later.

The civil rights section under which Crews will be tried makes it unlawful for a peace officer, under cover of the law, to deprive a person of his constitutional rights. Crews is charged specifically with depriving McFadden of his right to trial by jury and subjecting him to trial by ordeal.

Crews subsequently resigned as town marshal.

Civil Rights Case In Florida Court

PM New York, N.Y. Tues. 10-1-46

Tom A. Crews, a constable of Suwannee County, Fla., is scheduled to go on trial in Federal Court at Jacksonville today charged with violating the civil rights of a Negro prisoner.

The information charges that Crews arrested Sam Askins McFadden on Sept. 21, 1945, and subsequently took him to a point on the Suwannee River where the prisoner was beaten with a pistol and cow whip until he jumped into the river and was drowned.

Fla. Sheriff Held in Fatal Beating

The Afro American Baltimore, Md.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNPA) —Swanee County Constable Tom A. Crews of Branford has been ordered by Federal Judge Louie W. Strum to stand trial here Oct. 1 on a charge of violating the civil rights of a prisoner who died while under arrest last September.

The trial date was fixed by the court last Thursday after a defense motion to dismiss the information had been denied. Crews was directed to appear for arraignment on Sept. 17.

The information filed in Federal District Court charges that Crews arrested Sam Askins McFadde on Sept. 21, 1945, and subsequently took him to a point on the Swanee River, where the prisoner was beaten with a pistol and cow whip until he jumped into the river and was drowned. Sat. 8-17-46

FEDERAL TRIAL SET IN NEGRO'S DEATH

Times Newfork, N.J. Thurs. 8-15-46

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (UP)— The Department of Justice today assigned one of its civil rights experts to help prosecute a former Florida town marshal who allegedly subjected an aged Negro prisoner to "trial by ordeal" and then forced the man to drown himself in the Suwanee River.

The ex-marshal, Tom A. Crews of Branford, Fla., will be arraigned in Federal Court at Jacksonville Sept. 17 and his trial on charges

POLICE SHOOTS NEGRO TO DEATH—WITH GUN IN HAND

The Tattler — Jacksonville, Florida

Others State Negro Had Dropped Gun

Sat 9-21-46

VICTIM ROBBED

According to police reports, one Johnny Hooks, Jr., 35, 1030 East Beaver Street, was shot to dath on Sunday morning, September 15, at the corner of Florida Avenue and Oakley Street, by police officer Jno. W. Mullaly.

The officer stated that a call from headquarters informed him and his partner that a Negro was walking Florida Avenue with a gun in his hand and for them to investigate. They arrived at the corner of Florida Avenue and Oakley Street, saw Hooks, Jr. with gun in hand and ordered him three times to drop the gun. At the third command they (the officers) stated that Hooks turned with the gun in an upright position, then and there officer Mullaly fired once, the bullet hitting Hooks just right of the heart. Hooks died at the County Hospital.

Another statement made by several eye-witnesses:

Johnny Hooks, Jr., better known as "Pa Balls," had just gotten out of a cab, gave the driver a ten-dollar bill, and an argument came up about the proper change. Two women standing on the corner walked up to the cab and one whispered to the cab driver; driver gave woman the ten-dollar bill and then a gun was drawn. It was said that Hooks got out of the cab, went home, got his gun and came back looking for the slickers. It was here that the officers arrived and ordered Hooks to drop te gun. Hooks, dropped the gun, according to eye-witnesses—then the officer (Mullaly) fired once. It was also reported that Hooks had $60 or $70 on his person at the time and also a gold wrist watch. These things were taken by unknowns, but Sunday afternoon the watch and part of the money was brought into the police station by three Negroes. One of the Negroes is being held for robbery.

Johnny Hooks, Jr. is well known as well as well liked by all, and that he was a very nice fellow, according to statements coming from white and colored citizens.

The killing was investigated by local police and detectives.

A Beastial Act

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Sat. 10-12-46

Tom A. Crews, Suwanee County, Fla. constable, was last week convicted by a U. S. District Court for the violation of the Civil Rights of a sixty-year-old Negro farm hand, Sam A. McFadden, by beating him with the butt of a pistol and a cow's whip until he was forced to jump into the Suwanee River and drowned. Such a beastial act is unbecoming of the conduct of any civilized being, not to mention that of a law enforcement officer.

United States District Judge Dozier A. Duvane, has imposed the law's maximum penalty in such an instance, which is imprisonment for a year and payment of One Thousand dollars. In itself, that is an exceedingly light penalty. And we hope the government will stand by its guns and exact the full extent of this light punishment for such a grave and unwarranted negation of a man's civil rights and the cruel decimation of human life. There is just one way to curb this evil and that is by dealing firmly and swiftly with those guilty of such acts.

Locust Grove Youth Shot By Policeman

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

LOCUST GROVE, Ga.— (SNS) Kirby Sims 20, was shot by a policeman, Sunday night and was rushed to Grady Hospital, Atlanta, Ga. Hospital officials described his condition as "fair," Monday afternoon.

According to eye-witnesses, Kirby and his brother John Richard Sims, 26, accompanied their aunt to the railway station, around 8 o'clock, and were standing near the station waiting for the train when the shooting took place.

It is reported that several colored people were waiting for the train, standing under the only light at the little railway station, talking when the officers arrived. In a very rude manner the officer told them to get to the back and clear the place where they were standing. Without comment, the colored people started toward the back.

The victim, who is said to be a rather jovial youngster readily moved back, and in doing so, had a smile on his face. seeing the smile, officer Harold Craig is reported to have yelled, "What are you grinning for N.....?

Before irby could answer officer Craig is reported to have kicked victim in the stomach. Wed. 5-8-46

Before Kirby could answer, the officer is reported to have kicked him, and a scuffle followed, during which time, the officer shot the victim in the stomach.

Meanwhile, when John heard the shot and saw his wounded brother fall across the track, he started to help him up, but Officer Grover Patrick put a gun on him and told him not to move.

Later, the officer permitted John to put Kirby in the family car, and when he was about to rush him to McDonough, changed their minds and ordered him out of the ctar and placed him under arrest. It is reported a white youngster was kind enough to rush Kirby to McDonough, and an ambulance carried him to Atlanta.

BEATEN IN JAIL

When the officers got John to jail, they shoved him and started beating him. Learning about the shooting of Kirby and the arrest of John ames Sims father of the youngsters got in his car to go and see if he could get John out of jail. Wed. 5-8-46

According to reports as Mr. Sims approached the staion, he was met by Mayor Emmett Daniel, armed with a shotgun and Officer Patrick, who had his pistol drawn. Mr Sims explanied that he didn't come to cause further trouble but merely wanted to see if he could get his son out of jail.

The officers not only refused to let him see John but threatened to blow his head off, and drove all of the colored people from the station. Monday, however he was able to get John out under $500 bond and he is slated to go on trial in July on a charge of assault with intent to murder.

Mr. Sims has a farm three and one half miles from Locust Grove. John was honorably discharged from the United States Army about four months ago, after serving three years and six months in the "ETO." Since being released from the Services, he has been farming.

Another Atlanta Man Killed By Police

Tampa Bulletin
Florida

ATLANTA (ANP) — The 23d Negro violence slaying in Atlanta was 30-year-old Levi Gant, victim of police bullets. Sat 5-11-46

Gant, father of four children, was slain by Patrolman W. D. Nash, who reportedly has several notches on his gun for Negro victims in his long years of service on the Atlanta city police force.

Nash told a familiar, yet strange, story about the slaying. The police report was that information had reached them that Gant had non-taxed whiskey in his Decatur street room and that they went there to investigate it. Gant reportedly opened the door for them and preceded them into his room. Patrolman Nash said that as he went over to look in the icebox Gant walked toward him with an ice pick in his hand. Nash said he fired twice hitting Gant once in the chest and in the arm. The officer claimed Gant continued to advance. Nash shot again striking Gant in the head and Gant fell dead, the officer said. There was no action against Nash, as his partner corroborated his statement. Nobody else saw the slaying. Sat 5-11-46

Two and a half pints of non-taxed whiskey were found in Gant's room, the police said.

Man Killed By Police

Atlanta Daily World, Ga.

As They Search Room

Thurs 4-25-46

Tuesday night Levi Gant, 30, of 496 Decatur Street, N. E. was killed by Patrolman W. D. Nash according to the police report of that officer and Patrolman H. G. Tuggell.

The police further stated that they had information that Gant had non-taxed whiskey in his room and that when they went to investigate Gant opened the door for them and preceded them into the room. Patrolman Nash stated that as he went over to look in the icebox Gant walked toward him with an icepick in his hand. Nash fired twice hitting Gant once in the chest and in the arm; according to the patrolman, Gant continued to advance. Nash shot again striking Gant in the head. It was then that Gant fell.

23

Dr. Kinchelow at Grady hospital pronounced the body dead.

Two and one-half pints of non-taxed whiskey were found in Gant's room according to the police report.

Father of four killed by Georgia policeman

Los Angeles Sentinel
Los Angeles, Calif.

ATLANTA, Ga. — Thirty-year-old Levi Gant, of Decatur, Ga., father of four children, last week joined the long list of Negroes who have been killed by white policemen.

According to police reports, information had reached the office that Gant had non-taxed whiskey in his Decatur room. Two patrolmen were sent to investigate and Gant reportedly opened the door for them and preceded them into the room. 5-18-46

Then, as one of the officers, W. D. Nash, went over to look in the ice box, Gant reportedly walked toward him with an ice pick in his hand. Nash said he fired twice, hitting Gant in the chest and arm. When Gant continued to advance, Nash said he shot him in the head, causing him to fall dead. Sat. 5-18-46

No action has been brought against patrolman because his story was corroborated by his partner and there were no other witnesses.

Lynch Lone Voter Against Talmadge

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y. Saturday 8-3-46

(Special to Amsterdam News)

BUTLER, Ga.—Despite an official denial by local police, residents of this little village insisted this week that Georgia's first of five lynchings within a week occurred here on the night Eugene Talmadge was nominated for Governor.

Election officials counting the votes discovered that only one voter had voted against the town's favorite.

Snipes, 30, was asked how he voted. 8-3-46

"Like everybody else," he was quoted as saying, "I voted with the winner." 8-3-46

"You're lying nigger," a white sailor told him. "You know damn well you voted for that yankee-talking Carmichael."

Snipes, hoping to avoid an incident because his mother, Mrs. Lulu Snipes, had warned him against voting, dropped the conversation and went home to dinner.

Half an hour later, two carloads of white men drove up to the Snipes home, ordered Maceo to accompany them to the woods nearby and the shooting followed.

Mrs. Snipes, it was learned, heard the shots but was afraid to look outside her window.

Ten minutes later, Maceo staggered back to the house into the kitchen and dropped at his mother's feet with eight bullets in his abdomen and left thigh.

Neverthless, Snipes lived until the next day.

Taylor County's Sheriff Boone denied that version of the lynching, however revealed that a young white man, Edward Cooper, had admitted shooting Snipes and claimed that it happened as a result of an argument over an old $10 debt.

Autopsy Performed On Body of Negro

An autopsy on the body of Booker T. Baker, Negro, who reportedly was shot and killed by Police Officer G. E. Stillwell on Sept. 25, has disclosed that the Negro was struck by five bullets, the Board of Public Safety was informed Thursday.

Police records stated that the officer fired "several times" and that two of the bullets took effect, one entering the left chest and another in the right chest.

Officer Stillwell was suspended "without prejudice" Wednesday night pending a public hearing into the shooting by the safety board next Wednesday.

According to police, Stillwell shot the Negro, whose home was near Salem, Ala., after Baker allegedly was seen committing an act of public indency.

The Negro, police said, threatened the officer with a knife and was shot after Stillwell twice ordered him to halt. Baker died at City hospital shortly after the shooting.

Man Slain After Drawing Knife On Deputy

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Thurs. 10-17-46

Constitution State News Service.

MOULTRIE, Oct. 16—A Negro who is alleged to have drawn a switch-blade knife on a Colquitt County officer was shot and killed on the Moultrie-Doerun Road.

The Negro was listed by Sheriff T. V. Beard Tuesday as Charlie Hurst, a turpentine worker. Beard said Deputy Sheriff J. H. Phillips, who was serving court subpoenas, "happened up on Hurst, who was staggering down the road."

He added Phillips got out of his car, identified himself to the Negro and told him to get into the automobile. The Negro then flashed his knife, Beard said, and began scuffling with Phillips, who drew his gun.

Fred Lamb, a farmer who lived nearby, said he "had run Hurst out of his yard a short time before after Hurst had gotten after some other Negroes with an ax."

Turpentine Worker Killed By Officer Near Moultrie

World
Memphis, Tenn.
Fri. 10-18-46

MOULTRIE, Ga. — (S N S) — Charlie Hurst, a turpentine worker was shot and killed by Deputy Sheriff J. H. Phillips on the Moultrie-Doerun Road early this week.

Phillips, who was serving court subpoenas, said he 'happened up on Hurst, who was staggering down the road." The officer claimed he got out of his car, identified himself to Hurst and told him to get out of his yard a short time before Hurst had gotten after some Negroes with an ax."

Hurst was said by the officer to have flashed his knife and a scuffle ensued, following which Hurst was shot and killed.

A white farmer, Fred Lamb, living nearby, said he 'had run Hurst

16b 1946

GI Shot to Death by White Officer in Honolulu

Pittsburgh Courier
Baltimore, Md.

HONOLULU — (ANP) — T/4 George Jones died here recently at Schofield Hospital as a result of two shots from a .30-caliber carbine fired by Capt. Louis H. Alton, white, during a dispute between Alton and Jones. Sat, 11-16-46

Complete details of the affray are not yet available. However, it is said that Jones threatened Alton with a knife.

16b 1946

Vet "snaps his cap"; is killed by policeman

Los Angeles California
Los Angeles Tribune

CHICAGO — Twenty-three-year old Abe Jackson, veteran of three and a half years in the South Pacific, is dead here this week, slain by a policeman who stopped him from a crazy attack on Southsiders.

Jackson's "mind just snapped", his sister, Mrs. Anna Bell Lewis, told police. A guest with his sister in a friend's home, he suddenly smashed a mirror with his fist and began to march about the house. Sat 11-16-46

In the street, where Jackson next ran, he turned on his sister, as she followed him, and beat and kicked her. Encountering a child, as he roamed South Parkway, he knocked her down. In the next block, he smashed the window of a car, struck a policeman, breaking his glasses, and snatched a woman's purse as he ran from the officer. The policeman, Patrick Gill, shot him, and Jackson finally calmed down on an examination table in the Bridewell hospital where he died and where it had been necessary to strap him down in the effort to treat his wound.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Policemen (Kentucky)

Patrolman Is Accused In Killing

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Thurs. 8-8-46

Pirrman Is Said To Have Hit Prisoner

A manslaughter charge was placed yesterday against Patrolman Joseph M. Pirrman, Jr., 34, of 1331 Peerless Court, in the death at General Hospital Monday of Frank Ditto, 45, Negro, of 1604 W. Walnut. Dr. Roy L. Carter, coroner, said Ditto died of a hemorrhage caused by a blow on the head.

Police said Pirrman struck Ditto with a night stick at the police holdover July 27 in an effort to subdue him. They said Ditto attacked Pirrman before the officer struck him.

Says Disorder Created.

Ditto had been arrested by Pirrman and charged with disorderly conduct after he interfered, police said, with an investigation of a murder case earlier in the day. Pirrman and other officers were investigating the death of George Moore, Negro, alleged to have been shot and killed by Allen Wilson, also a Negro, at 814 W. Madison.

Police said Ditto went to the murder scene, insisted on removing the body and otherwise created disorder. Thurs. 8-8-46

Ditto did not appear to be hurt immediately after he was struck, but several hours later he went to the hospital.

He was arrested in 1944 on a murder charge, and also has been arrested on grand larceny and malicious striking charges.

Pirrman was paroled by Maj. James Malone, chief of detectives.

"Resisted Arrest" When Sought For Police Questioning

Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans Sat 6-15-46

Neighbors Believe He Was Murdered

Knew Too Much

Sworn Statements Support Beliefs

Two sworn statements before Louis Brown, president of the Gretna NAACP, last week revealed a story of police brutality of the cruelest and most barbaric proportions. 6-15-46

Elliott Brooks, of Gretna, is dead from a bullet allegedly fired by Chief Beauregard Miller, "Gestapo-like" head of the Gretna police. First reports said that Brooks had been shot in the shoulder while resisting arrest. Charity Hospital doctors, however, say that he died from a wound in the forehead. The statements to the NAACP indicate that he was killed because he knew too much about the disappearance of Anthony Pierre, Gretna police prisoner who has been missing for over a month.

According to the statements, Brooks had been in the jail at the same time as Pierre. Upon his release he was told by the jailer that he had better leave Gretna because Chief Miller was going to kill him for knowing too much about Pierre's disappearance. Brooks, said the statements, later told Pierre's common-law wife that all he knew about her husband's disappearance was that he had seen Pierre leap the jail fence and head for McClennonville, a nearby town.

Sat 6-15-46

Another NAACP statement says that on the night of May 8, Chief Miller came to Brooks' home and dragged him out of bed. He was accompanied by two policemen and two white men in plain clothes. One of the policemen later told Brooks' relatives that Chief Miller had shot Brooks in the shoulder when he resisted arrest. Brooks died about a week later in Charity Hospital, according to Daniel E. Byrd, executive secretary of the New Orleans NAACP, who is investigating the case.

Louisiana Weekly

One of the statements to Brown said that Chief Miller is reported to have killed at least seven Negroes. According to the statement he is haunted by the murders to the extent that he screams in his sleep. His wife is reported to have left him because of this.

New Orleans Sat

16b 1946 Negroes, by Policemen (Maryland)

Second Autopsy Ordered in Killing

Baltimore, June 10 (AP).—The aid of a "gun-shot" expert of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was sought today by State's Attorney J. Bernard Wells to aid in determining whether or not Wilbur Bundley, Negro, was killed by a bullet wound in the back as suggested by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Bundley's body was exhumed from a grave in Virginia and returned to Baltimore for a second autopsy after the original post mortem examination verdict reported that the bullet fired by Patrolman Walter J. Weber entered the front of the body.

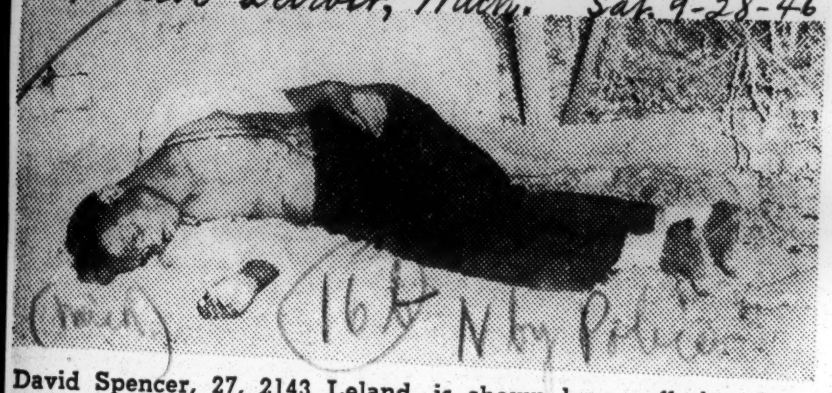
Weber testified that he fired at the Negro in self defensse after Bundley came at him with a knife.

The autopsy, which will be resumed tomorrow, is being conducted by Dr. Howard J. Maldeis, chief medical examiner; Dr. Conrad Acton, former assistant post mortem physician; and Dr. Robert S. Jason, Negro professor of pathology at Howard University. Dr. Jason is representing the NAACP.

Negroes, by Police (Michigan)

VICTIM OF POLICE BULLETS

Chronicle Detroit, Mich. Sat. 9-28-46



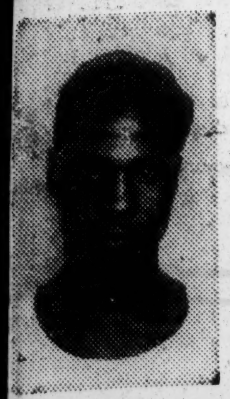
David Spencer, 27, 2143 Leland, is shown here suffering from bullet wounds which later proved fatal. It was disclosed that Spencer was shot by Patrolman Frank Nardoni, 29, 12073 Glenfield when the officer resisted attempts of a mob to take a prisoner, Emanuel Rozier, away from him while near 278 E. Columbia, last week. Rozier was held for investigation of accosting and soliciting the police officer. Rozier was arrested after he had attempted to escape. He was taken into custody after being shot in the right arm by the officer who pursued him from an alley at the rear of 250 E. Columbia. Spencer was dead on admittance to Receiving Hospital.

OFFICER SAYS CROWD WANTED HIS PRISONER

Chronicle Detroit, Mich Sat. 9-28-46

Fired Shot To Protect Self On The Street

A 27-year-old man, shot to death by a police officer, was one of three persons, two men and a woman who died this week after suffering from gunshot wounds.



Spencer

The young man was identified as David Spencer, 2143 Leland. Police say he attempted to take a prisoner away from Patrolman Frank Nardoni, 29, of 12073 Glenfield.

Two others who died after being shot were identified as Edward Jackson, 34, of 2217 E. Lafayette, and Mrs. Sally Mae Atkins, 38, of 943 Wilkins.

Spencer was dead on admittance to Receiving hospital. Police records disclosed that Patrolman Nardoni had shot Spencer after warning a crowd of citizens that he was a police officer and to stay away from his prisoner.

Prisoner Shot

The prisoner, identified as Emanuel Rozier, 35, of 6580 Twelfth was taken into custody after he had accosted the officer in an alley at the rear of 250 E. Columbia.

Nardoni stated that after he had placed Rozier under arrest he drew a razor and slashed the officer on the arm. The officer knocked the razor from Rozier's hand. Rozier attempted to escape by running east in the alley.

Nardoni fired one warning shot, then fired two other shots which struck Rozier in his right arm. Rozier fell in front of 278 E. Columbia. A crowd gathered and Spencer is accused by the police of attempting to take the prisoner away from Nardoni. Chronicle

Nardoni stated that he fired once when Spencer attempted to grab his arm. Spencer died a short time later. Rozier, taken to the hospital, was held for investigation of accosting and soliciting. Detroit Mich

Witnesses to the fatal shooting held by police are Willie B. White 250 E. Columbia; Booker Brown 334 St. Antoine; Charles Wilburd 1300 E. Canfield, and Jesse Kirk 516 E. Columbia. Sat 9-28-46

A 29-year-old man who told police he had been drinking and "didn't recall the shooting" was held this week for the murder of Edward Jackson.

Police learned that Jackson was fatally wounded when he and Walter Shipping 29, of 3331 E. Fort had an altercation while visiting at 3428 Monroe early Friday morning.

Five women and two men were questioned by police. It was disclosed.

Shot in the neck, Mrs. Sally Mae Atkins, 38, of 943 Wilkins was dead on admittance to Receiving Hospital early Friday morning.

Deputy Sheriff Held In Slaying of Negro

HATTIESBURG, Miss., July 30 (AP)—John Lewis, Deputy Sheriff of Covington County, was being held Tuesday in Forrest County jail here pending a premilinary hearing Wednesday in Collins on a murder charge which Mayor J. D. Arrington, of Collins, said was filed in connection with the fatal shooting of a 37-year-old Negro father of 10 children.

The Negro was identified by Mayor Arrington as Buddy Wolf. He said the shooting took place about 11 p. m. Saturday in a small store just west of Collins.

Mayor Arrington quoted Lewis as saying he fired on Wolf after the Negro attacked him. A group of Negroes was present when the shooting occurred, the Mayor said, but up to Tuesday morning none had made statements, and events leading up to the Negro's alleged attack on the deputy were not known.

Lewis was taken into custody Monday afternoon after Judge Jap Tims, of Collins, issued a murder warrant based on an affidavit sworn out by the dead Negro's wife, Mayor Arrington said.

Mississippi Deputy Held

HATTIESBURG, Miss., July 30 (AP)—Deputy Sheriff John Lewis was being held in jail today pending a preliminary hearing Wednesday on a murder charge which, Mayor J. D. Arrington of Collins, said was filed in connection with the fatal shooting of a 37-year-old negro father of 10 children.

Mayor Arrington declared that the negro, Buddy Wolf, was shot Saturday night in a small store just west of Collins. He quoted Lewis as saying he fired after Wolf had attacked him. A group of negroes was present, the Mayor added, but up to this morning none had made a statement.

Lewis was arrested on an affidavit sworn out by Wolf's wife.

Mississippi Deputy Dies In Gun Battle

McCOMB, MISS., Oct. 24 —(AP) —Shotguns roared in a gunbattle between officers and a deranged Negro here today with the resulting deaths of a veteran peace officer and the Negro.

Deputy Sheriff Harmon McGuffee, 40, was shot and killed by the Negro, Lucius Brown, about 50 years old, who, Sheriff W. E. Moore of Pike County, said had been a former inmate of the State Insane Asylum.

Shortly afterward in the predawn shooting Sheriff Moore, the former "Bucky" Moore of the Loyola University of The South football team, and City Policeman J. C. Strange arrived on the scene and shot the Negro to death.

Strange said that McGuffee was felled by a shotgun charge which struck him in the head. The deputy had been summoned to the rooming house in the Baertown section, where Brown resided, by Negro neighbors, who reported that Brown was terrorizing the neighborhood.

When McGuffee called to Brown to question him, Strange said, Brown invited McGuffee into the house, and then fired on him within a range of a few feet, after the deputy had entered the hall.

City Policeman Olaf Miller, who had accompanied McGuffee, summoned the sheriff.

"When the sheriff and Strange arrived, the officers said, Brown emptied his 12-gauge shotgun at them without effect and Strange replied with two pistol bullets.

Strange then obtained a shotgun and felled the Negro on the porch of the dwelling.

Killing Sheriff On Bond For Mississippi Shooting

COLLINS, Miss., Aug. 2— (AP) — Covington County Deputy Sheriff John Lewis was free today on $2,000 bond to await Grand Jury action on a murder charge growing out of the fatal shooting Saturday night of Buddy Wolf, 37-year-old Negro father of 10 children.

Lewis, arraigned at a preliminary hearing held in Collins Wednesday, testified he fired four shots, thee of which struck the Negro. He said he shot in self-defense after Wolf attacked him and Collins Town Marshal W. M. Everett, Jr., with a stool in a Negro store just west of Collins.

Two of six Negroes who testified yesterday for the prosecution accused Lewis of black-jacking Wolf in the store, shooting him once while he was in the building and twice after the wounded Negro made his way outside.

Cop Kills Man In Bar and Grill

George A. Warner, 62 W 140 st, temporary cop with the Central Park Station, shot and killed a man whom he alleged had stabbed him with a table fork in a bar and grill, 687 Lenox av. The dead man, whose address is unknown, was identified as Walter Mixon, Pullman porter.

Warner asserts that he was in the bar and grill in civilian clothes with Miss Essie Cunningham, 135 W 143 st, when Warner, evidently drunk, persisted in making insulting remarks to Miss Cunningham.

In an effort to get rid of him quietly, Warner identified himself as a policeman. He searched Mixon, but finding no weapon, let him go.

Upon his release, Mixon ran to the kitchen, grabbed up a table fork, and stabbed Warner in the left shoulder, Warner declared.

Warner fired two shots at him in the grill. Mixon ran into the street where Warner pumped three more shots into his body. Mixon collapsed in front of 110 W 144 st.

An innocent bystander, Earl Long, W 144 st, was shot in the left [illegible] in front of his home during the bullet rain.

Three Shots Fells Victim; Open Protest

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
Sat. 8-17-46

Excitement flared in uptown Brooklyn early Saturday morning when a policeman shot and fatally wounded Lacey McArthur, 27, of 2105 Dean St., after he vanished from the epileptic ward of Kings County Hospital at Clarkson and New York Aves.

Arming himself with a length of iron pipe, McArthur made his way through a ground floor window of the hospital ward at 1:30 a. m. and vanished in the darkness.

His disappearance was discovered within a few minutes and an alarm was sounded, after which police of the Empire Boulevard precinct started a search of the neighborhood.

At approximately 2 a. m., Patrolman Eligio Sorro of the Empire Boulevard station, saw McArthur walking along Clarkson Ave., between E. 93rd and E. 94th Sts., in East New York, and some distance from the hospital.

When Sorro approached, McArthur is reported to have run into the backyard of the premises at 1063 Clarkson Ave., the patrolman pursuing him with a drawn revolver.

While in the backyard McArthur is alleged to have attempted to attack Sorro with the piece of iron pipe, whereupon the patrolman fired three shots, all bullets entering McArthur's chest. He died at the Kings County Hospital at 2:35 a. m.

Some uptown organizations have already voiced their criticism of Sorro's three shots. They say that the extra shooting was unnecessary and that one shot would have been sufficient. 8-17-46

16b 1946

Negroes, by Police (New York--Freeport)

Says D. A. Admits Freeport Complicity

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Tues. 9-24-46

NEW YORK—(ANP)—"James N. Gehrig, district attorney of Nassau county, admitted his complicity in covering up the Freeport police in connection with their slaying of Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson, Negro servicemen brothers on Feb. 5," according to a statement issued here by Miss Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, last week.

The admission was said to have been made on Sept. 10 when the district attorney addressed the Nassau County Village Officials association in Fireman's hall, East Rockaway. Originally scheduled to speak on juvenile dlinquency Attry, Gehaig instead described in detail how he had backed up the policeman in what they had done, boasting that he withstood a barrage of criticisms for his action in causing Nassau County Grand jury to exonerate Joseph Roemika, the Freeport policeman who killed the two Negro brothers.

"Covering Up"

The New York committee had previously charged Gehaig with covering up for the policeman in the Freeport killings. An investigation of the incident was held to have been whitewashed and closed by Gov. Dewey upon Gehrig's suggestion.

Speaking of Gov. Dewey's part in condoning the action of Gehrig in seeking successfully to exonerate Roemika of all blame for the shootings, Miss Langston declared, "there is strong indication that the governor's brusque action in attempting to close the case and so eliminate it from consideration by the voters, is having the reverse effect. The state convention of the American Labor party incorporated censure of Mr. Dewey in their platform as well as a demand that he take positive action to bring justice to Freeport, Long Island, even at this late date."

Following determined action by the committee and other civic groups, Governor Dewey appointed Greenbaum to inquire into the legal matters connected with the case and to determine the culpability of any persons involved. Policeman Joseph Romeika, who shot three Ferguson brothers and arrested a fourth Feb. 5 because they objected to Jim Crow in a Freeport restaurant is the chief target of criticism. Nassau County District Atty. James N. Gehrig has been highly scored for his biased handling of the case. Hundreds of indignant letters have been sent to Governor Dewey asking for punishment of both Romeika and Gehrig.

In response to a petition for justice instituted by three Freeport citizens, Governor Dewey appointed Greenbaum as special investigator, July 5. The committee offered its services to Greenbaum and cautioned him to conduct a fair investigation before the open hearings began. Now early suspicions of a "whitewash" are being borne out by Greenbaum's methods.

Bars Testimony

He has refused to hear testimony from Stanley Faulkner who probably knows more of the case than any person in the state. Faulkner is the attorney for the Ferguson families, counsel for the citizens who petitioned the governor, and he represents the Committee for Justice in Freeport. He has been denied any part in the inquiry.

As the hearings proceed it becomes apparent that the move is an attempt to cover the miscarriage of justice perpetrated by Gehrig in not prosecuting Romeika for murder. Representatives of civic and labor organizations attending the hearings have expressed dissatisfaction with stalling and cover up methods employed by Greenbaum. It has been charged that the governor is reluctant to expose fascist tendencies in a fellow Republican, and that the investigation is being carried out under a prearranged plan.

Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the committee, charged that Greenbaum and his counsel are both hostile to witnesses, whose testimony accusses Romeika of murder. The loaded questions asked by investigators are patent procedure, she added.

Lee, who recently joined the fight has appealed in a widely circulated letter for donations to a trust fund to support the three small sons of Charles Ferguson.

Dewey Probers Try To Quash Freeport Case

The Defender Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 7-27-46

NEW YORK — As Canada Lee, stage and screen star, issued a plea for funds to support the three children of Pfc. Charles Ferguson, one of three brothers shot to death by a Long Island policeman, last February, the Committee for Justice in Freeport charged special investigator Lawrence S. Greenbaum with attempting to whitewash inquiries into the case.

DEATH INQUIRY BACKED

Times

Nassau Group Approves Dewey Act on Shooting of Negroes

New York, N. Y.

FREEPORT, L. I., July 6—Appointment by Governor Dewey of Lawrence S. Greenbaum, New York City attorney and chairman of the State Board of Social Welfare, to investigate the fatal shooting of two Negro brothers here by a policeman and the latter's subsequent exoneration, was approved today by the Nassau Conference on Human Rights in a telegram to the Governor. Sun.

The telegram asked the Governor to include in the investigation also the treatment of William J. Dessaure, a Negro, by police and the exoneration of the police. The men killed were Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and Alfonso Ferguson. The shooting occurred at 2 A. M., Feb. 5.

7 - 7 - 46

Freeport Probe Fiasco Perils City—Collins

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 7-25-46

Charles A. Collins, Negro candidate for State Senator from the 21st Senatorial District, yesterday said that "the greatest cause for alarm exists among the people of the city and state of New York as a result of the breakdown of the Freeport-Ferguson hearings."

Charging that "Dewey's man, Mr. Greenbaum," was suppressing the real facts of the case and allowing "Romeika, a boastful killer," to go free, Collins demanded to know why "Dewey is so afraid to let the truth get out?" "Why is he so anxious to give aid and comfort to those who would terrorize and intimidate the Negro people?" Collins asked.

Collins traced what he termed "a **pattern of terror against the Negro people, which started at Columbia, Tenn., continued its bloody traces at Freeport, gouged out the eyes of Isaac Woodward in South Carolina, put Carlton Powell in Bellevue, beat up a Negro woman two weeks ago and wound up last weekend with the beating of James Slappy, an elderly half-blind Negro.**"

"It is getting near election time, and there are many people with Ku Klux Klan mentalities who are issuing warnings to the Negro people. In effect these trigger-happy fascists are saying 'Stay away from the polls. Don't join unions. Act like Uncle Toms or we'll give you bloody terror.'

"We are going to fight Dewey and his gang of anti-Negro elements as long as they are around. Dewey is playing with the lives of Negroes when he permits a killer like Romeika to walk around with a gun. We want justice in Freeport. Dewey is going to give it to us or we'll want to know the reason why on election

'I'd Have Done Same'--Freeport DA

IGNORES PEOPLE'S ANGER AT SLAYINGS

By John Hudson Jones

Daily Worker

MINEOLA, N. Y., June 19.—Nassau County District Attorney, James N. Gehrig doesn't "care what you people, the Committee for Justice in Freeport, or Adam Powell thinks" about his conduct of the investigation of the police murder of the Ferguson brothers.

Gehrig hotly defended Joseph Romeika, the policeman who shot the brothers, and stated **"I would have done the same thing under the circumstances."**

In answering a series of questions put to him, he left no question as to his position on the problem of police terror against Negro citizens in Nassau County.

GEHRIG

Q. In view of the Navy investigation that exonerated Joseph Ferguson of a disorderly conduct charge, and a personal citation to Charles Ferugson from General H. H. Arnold of the U. S. Air Force, isn't there some basis for reopening the case?

A. No. The Grand Jury found no evidence to warrant the indictment of the officer, and I have no authority to reopen the case.

He insisted that the Ferguson brothers were of bad character and cited several alleged incidents involving their misconduct. He admitted that Romeika didn't know of their "bad" record before he shot them. He further insisted that Richard admitted on the stand that Charles made a move for a gun. The Freeport Police Court record of his trial does not show such testimony. On the contrary Richard Ferguson definitely denied that his brother made such a move.

Q. Granted that the Daily Worker and various protest movements have raised the Ferguson case to a very high political level, what about the Rockville Center police beating William J. Dessaure? Isn't it the same police attitude towards Negroes that resulted in the brothers' death?

A. No. There is no connection, except that "you people put on for your own benefit."

Q. Since you are responsible for law enforcement in Nassau County, what have you done about the Ku Klux Klan?

A. We haven't found any evidence that the Klan is operating here.

Q. What about the Newsday's statement on March 20 that it had information that the "sons of bias" were getting ready to attack Negroes in and around Freeport? And also Mayor Hirschell of Hempstead who also banned a Justice in Freeport meeting to "protect" it from "patriotic" groups that he knew of?

A. This office has not found any evidence of the Klan. I didn't know of the Mayor's statement.

Q. Don't these incidents have some election significance?

A. No.

Q. How do you account for four policemen finding it necessary to beat one unarmed Negro, in Dessaure's case?

A. No comment.

Q. Is it conceivable that a lone Negro would attack four armed policemen.

A. No comment.

Q. Do you see any connection between the Tennessee police shooting up the Columbia Negro community and what has happened in Nassau County?

A. There is no possible comparison. People in the South don't think like we do up here.

Gehrig charged that leftwing groups were using Negroes for their own benefit. He said that he knew prejudice and discrimination against Negroes existed in the North, but that were some "bad colored people too." He boasted of his membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but would not comment on the NAACP's struggle for the Columbia, Tenn., Negroes.

Gehrig repeatedly avoided any discussion of Gov. Dewey in relation to the cases, and said that no Negroes were on the Nassau County Grand Jury because "they haven't qualified." He again and again stated that the tremendous mass protest movement for Justice in Freeport, "makes no difference to me."

Before leaving I handed him a copy of the Daily Worker. He promptly read the two telegrams sent by the paper to Dewey and Truman demanding their action in bringing to justice the police terrorists in Freeport, N. Y., and Columbia, Tenn. There was no comment.

Freeport Group Pledges Aid to State Probe

Daily Worker

Monday

Full cooperation in the probe of the recent Freeport slayings was pledged yesterday by the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport.

In letters to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and Lawrence E. Greenbaum, whom Dewey appointed to investigate the slaying of two Ferguson brothers, the Committee also urged an inquiry into Ku Klux Klan activities in New York State.

Addressing Gov. Dewey, Dorothy Langston, Executive Secretary of the Committee stated:

"Ever since this shocking crime occurred the New York Committee has worked unceasingly toward the indictment of Policeman Joseph Romeika for murder. We are glad that we have convinced you that the events on the night of the slaying warrant such action on your part, and we feel sure your investigation will substantiate our demand for Romeika's indictment on this charge."

New York, N.Y.

PROBE WILL REVEAL BIAS

"We are sure that an honest and impartial investigation will prove our contention that this incident was a shocking situation of racist violence which has no place in our state. An honest investigation will expose the whole pattern of discrimination and police brutality against the minority groups throughout New York State and the prejudice of some of our men who are entrusted with the enforcement of justice in our courts, especially in Nassau County."

Citing the instance in the case of William J. Dessaure, who was bound over to the Grand Jury for assault charges, while four Rockville Centre cops who brutally beat him were exonerated, Miss Langston charged "prejudice on the part of some of our judiciary."

The letter to Greenbaum reiterated the Committee's wholehearted desire to cooperate in a thorough and impartial investigation." Miss Langston urged that action be taken immediately to begin this probe in order to "restore the democratic traditions of our state."

PRESSURE WON VICTORY

Monday

Public pressure led to the appointment of a special investigator to probe the killing of the Ferguson brothers in Freeport, L. I., a statement issued yesterday by the Charles Ferguson post of the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America said.

1-8-46

Named for one of the victims of the murder, the vet post recalls that **"UNAVA was on the spot 24 hours after the killing occurred and led a delegation to the police chief of Freeport demanding the suspension of policeman Romeika."**

Signed jointly by George Douglass, adjutant of the Post, Oliver Martin, New York commander of UNAVA and Bert Alves, regional director the statement urged **"all organizations and individuals to continue public pressure on Albany so that no white-wash of the Nassau County officials occurs."**

Freeport: How One Newspaper Fought a Crime

Murder is "big news" in the capitalist press. Murder of the love nest variety that is.

But when two Negro veterans are brutally shot to death by a policeman just 40 miles from New York City the press plays deaf, dumb and blind.

From February 4th, the night Patrolman Romeika backed four Ferguson brothers up against a wall in Freeport, Long Island, killed two and wounded a third, to last Friday, when Governor Dewey finally ordered a special investigation of the case, only the Daily Worker of all the New York newspapers carried a consistent account of the murder and the great fight for justice that followed.

After very brief first day mention of the killings by two New York papers, the case was dropped fast and cold by all, including the "liberal" section of the press.

The Daily and Sunday Worker through the brilliant on-the-spot reporting of Harry Raymond, never let up a day in revealing the ugly facts of the murder and the gathering of decent forces to demand justice.

"COP KICKED SLAIN NEGRO IN GROIN BEFORE SHOOTING," —"NO REASON FOR KILLINGS, WITNESSES SAY"—"COURT RECORD BARES WHY COPS RUSHED FERGUSON TO JAIL"—"WHITEWASH FREEPORT KILLER COP"—"63 ORGANIZATIONS ASK FREEPORT D. A. OUSTER" —"PROMINENT LAWYERS ASKS US PROBE FREEPORT"—"CARRY FERGUSON CASE TO STATE LEGISLATURE" — "FORM NEW PARTY IN FREEPORT TO END JIM CROW"—"KILLED BECAUSE THEY WERE NEGROES SAYS MRS. FERGUSON" — "5,000 IN UNION SQUARE ASK FREEPORT JUSTICE" — "ARMY EXONERATION OF FERGUSON PUTS CASE UP TO DEWEY."

These are some of the day to day headlines from the Daily Worker. None of this was news to the other papers.

Nor was it news when delegations representing labor, youth and veteran organizations went to the State Capitol to demand action from Dewey. . . . when prominent citizens joined the Freeport Committee to obtain justice in the case. . . when labor, veteran organizations including Legion Posts, the Greater New York CIO Council representing 100,000 trade unionists, and the

crimination and oppression. Right now the press of New York is again hiding as a historic trial takes place in Columbia, Tennessee. The bold champion of the Negro people

finally last week wiring Governor Dewey, citing the facts and urging action.

The Daily Worker has always been

weeks before that.)

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American Labor Party

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crime.

All this and more was reported in the Daily Worker.

The press conspiracy of silence was partially broken five long weeks after the murders when PM ran a Sunday picture spread on the case. (The Sunday Worker had an exclusive Freeport picture story three

as of all minorities faced with dis- challenge to the whole rotten

31 Negro defendants in the heart of Dixie is not news to the big money press.

It is news, vital, meaningful news to the Daily Worker and is so reported every day.

It is news for the people just as Freeport is news. The Daily Worker, true to its great tradition, will continue its lone journalistic fight on the Freeport killings until the day full justice has been done.

HEARINGS THIS MORNING ON SLAYING OF NEGRO GIs

New York, N.Y. Wed. 7-17-46
Daily Worker

Lawrence S. Greenbaum, special state investigator in the Freeport slaying of Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson, was told last night "a heavy responsibility" rests on him as he opens hearings on the case today.

In a statement by the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, prepared for submission at the Bar Association hearing, 42 W. 44 St., this morning, Miss Dorothy Langston, committee chairman, warned against any further whitewash of the crime against Freeport Negroes.

Miss Langston pointed out that Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig, who whitewashed the case, is urging a petition charging him with dereliction of duty be dismissed.

"We question that he is desirous of having revealed the bias, the prejudice, the outright race-hate that characterized all of the official handling of this case," said the committee's statement to Greenbaum.

"By the manner in which you proceed, by your willingness to cause to be examined all that pertains to the case and by the efforts you extend to elicit the truth, the fairness of your investigation will be determined. Even more closely weighed and judged will be the words of your recommendations to Gov. Dewey."

The committee told Greenbaum, appointed by the Governor to investigate the case, an honest investigation "must result in a recommendation to Gov. Dewey that the facts warrant his immediately superseding the District Attorney of Nassau County (Gehrig)."

Miss Langston said the committee, a large number of labor unions and community groups for whom the committee speaks will continue to press for prosecution of Patrolman Joseph Romeika, the cop who shot the Negroes to death in cold blood on the morning of Feb. 15.

Support For Honest Freeport Probe Mounts

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Fri. 7-26-46

The obvious whitewash hearings into the Freeport-Ferguson case conducted by Gov. Dewey's investigator Lawrence S. Greenbaum and his assistant Sol Gelb have raised a widespread storm of protest from a wide circle of individuals and organizations.

When Dewey appointed Greenbaum to inquire into the case, almost half a year had passed since the two Negro brothers, Alfonso and Charles Ferguson, were shot down on Feb. 5 by Joseph Romeika, a Freeport, N. Y., cop. At that time the Nassau County Grand Jury completely exonerated Romeika, stating he had killed the brothers in line of duty. Romeika was returned to the force. Then, under the leadership of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, the people of New York demanded Dewey supersede the Grand Jury and District Attorney James N. Gehrig.

A new prosecutor and an impartial investigation was demanded since the killings had all the earmarks of deliberate murder.

As the hearings progressed it became very evident that Greenbaum and Gelb were interested in whitewashing Romeika. They refused to allow Stanley Faulkner, Freeport Committee attorney, to put specific questions to the witnesses. The same arrogant treatment also was shown to Milton Paulson, National Lawyers Guild, and to Franklin Williams, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Last Tuesday, after Greenbaum became particularly high-handed, several scores of spectators walked out of the hearing, led by Faulkner and Miss Dorothy Langston of the Freeport Committee.

Since then the following protests have been made:

Rev. Daniel L. Reed, B. D., president, N. Y. Baptist Ministers Conference stated: **"Dewey thinks that he's smart. He's running with the hare and beholding to the hound. If I have any influence with the Baptists of New York it is going to be used to expose Dewey's callous tactics from every pulpit in town."**

Judah B. Hellman, president, Long Island Division, American Jewish Congress said Governor Dewey had promised a full exploration of all the facts but that **"with the limitations imposed by Mr. Greenbaum, the hearings have been manipulated so as to prevent new evidence being elicited from witnesses whose complete statements can be secured only by cross examination."**

Henry Doliner, executive secretary of the Nassau Conference for Human Rights stated, **"Governor Dewey must not be allowed to get away with his cynical handling of this crime. We will go into the streets and expose him to the voters."**

Miss Langston said that the Committee wanted to organize an even more vigorous campaign than before **"because we have had a taste of the stuff that leads to fascism."** She also made an appeal for funds **"to fight this case to the very end."** All organizations and individuals who desire to help seek justice done in the Ferguson killings can send contributions to **The Committee for Justice in Freeport, 112 E. 19 St., New York City.**

Charge Dewey Behind Freeport Whitewash

Daily Worker
Mon. 8-5-46

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey was accused yesterday of engineering the official whitewash of the slaying of Charles and Alonzo Ferguson by Patrolman Joseph Romeika in Freeport, L. I.

The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport charged that the report, released Saturday, of Dewey's special investigator, Lawrence S. Greenbaum, contained "obvious conclusions expected from a rigged inquiry."

New York

The report, which upheld Nassau County District Attorney Joseph N. Gehrig's and grand jury refusal to indict the killer, was accepted immediately by Dewey as grounds for refusal to reopen the case. N. Y.

"The Dewey-Greenbaum report is the supreme attempt to bury the facts," the committee said. "But it will fail.

"The Albany administration is naive if they believe the matter has been closed. It is wide open, a screaming scandal that will cost Dewey heavily in November."

The committee noted that not a word is mentioned in the report about the Ku Klux Klan whose charter was revoked in New York State when exposed trying to stop the Freeport committee in its fight for justice.

The committee renewed its demand that Gov. Dewey supersede immediately Nassau County District Attorney Joseph N. Gehrig.

It pledged to "spare no one's political hide in making the truth known."

Monday 8-5-46

The protest recalled that Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson were killed without cause by a fascist-minded cop on Feb. 5, Joseph Ferguson was wounded and the fourth of the Negro brothers, Richard, hauled off to jail in a lynch atmosphere.

Gehrig's office helped Romeika with the story he told before the grand jury, which then exonerated him. Greenbaum was designated to perpetrate a sham hearing, and Dewey, "master-mind of the whitewash, is seeking to wind up hurriedly the whole bestial trail of hate, fraud and deception by solemnly accepting the Greenbaum findings." N. Y.

Dewey Freeport Whitewash Aids Klan, Collins Charges

Daily Worker
Tues. 8-6-46

Charles A. Collins, candidate for State Senator, charged Gov. Thomas E. Dewey yesterday with aiding the Ku Klux Klan by refusing to reopen the Freeport killing case.

"Mr. Dewey is in effect giving immunity to terrorizers who • District Attorney Gehrig never forced Dewey to initiate a special investigation of the original white- the Negro people in New York State," Collins asserted. by Nassau County District Attorney and Ferguson, brother and two vic- Dewey's refusal to bring to Jury, drew attention to glaring fal- stice the killer of the Fer- lacies in the probe report. son brothers . . . is a go- • Gehrig used Falkner's appear- ead signal to the wave of ance as a witness before the Grand ice terror now haunting Jury "for labor-baiting and red- Negro people." baiting to prejudice the case." Stanley Faulkner, attorney for prejudice: • Whereas Greenbaum declared that no witnesses other than those who appeared before the Grand Jury had disclosed themselves, Patrolman Romeika himself knew of a witness whom he did not produce for examination.

The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, which is spearheading the campaign to force Dewey to repudiate his hurried okay of the Greenbaum report, announced that Carrie Chapman Catt, champion of women's rights, had accepted honorary co-chairmanship of the organization. Her associate is Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

L.I. Cop Slays 2 Negroes; Citizens' Group Asks Probe

Daily Worker New York

2-7-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

FREEPORT, L. I., Feb. 6.—A thorough investigation of the brutal shooting to death of a soldier and a civilian, and the wounding of a U.S. Navy sailor, all Negroes, by a local policeman early yesterday, was demanded by a group of outraged citizens here today. The three Negroes, brothers, were shot by Patrolman Joseph Romeika near the Freeport bus terminal at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. The trigger-happy cop said he fired when Private Charles R. Fergusson, 27, one of the dead men, reached for a non-existent .45-calibre gun.

The other dead man is Alfonzo Fergusson, 25, of 93 Bennett Ave., Roosevelt, a village near here. Seaman Third Class Joseph Fergusson, 20, received a bullet wound in his shoulder and is in Lido Beach Navy Hospital. Policeman Romeika, a rookie on the force since last June, said he turned his blazing gun on the Negroes after he was called by Gus Scholakis, owner of the Terminal Tea Room, a restaurant in the bus terminal. Scholakis said the Negroes had been "disorderly" and had "insulted" him.

Richard Fergusson, another brother, who was with the group, was arrested and sentenced yesterday to 100 days in the Nassau County jail on a charge of disorderly conduct after a brief police court trial in which he had no attorneys or witnesses.

2-7-46

Aroused by what they called "a wanton shooting," a delegation of 24 leading local citizens visited Police Chief Peter Elar this afternoon. Elar had exonerated the cop, stating he had done his duty.

The delegation, headed by Elihu Burman, local attorney, asked the Police Chief to launch an immediate investigation of the killing and to suspend the policeman until final disposition of the case. Elar told the group he had investigated and would take no further action. He said the matter was closed so far as his department was concerned, and the only action on the matter would be a grand jury hearing next Tuesday.

District Attorney James M. Gehrig, announcing the pending of the grand jury action, said the matter would be "routine."

Immediately after the shooting, Freeport police, acting on instruction of Chief Elar, threw a heavy cordon around the bus terminal and stationed men with tommyguns and tear gas at the strategic points. A lynch atmophere hovered over the area as Elar stated he had taken this action to offset a "possible uprising of local Negroes."

2-7-46

PLAN FURTHER ACTION

The delegation, composed of both white and Negro citizens, left the Municipal Building voicing dissatisfaction with Elar's position. Members of the group said they planned further action to get to the bottom of the case.

During the hearing at police headquarters, members of the delegation pointed to Jimcrow conditions in the city, cited the existence of a Jimcrow school and insisted that the atmosphere surrounding the case, and the conditions under which Negroes live here, were contributing factors to what happened Tuesday morning.

They pointed out that the dead soldier, who was on furlough here from Greensboro, N. C., had a good military record and had just recently re-inlisted in the Army, after serving overseas. He left behind him a wife and three small children. His children are Wilfred, 2; Richard, 3; and Charles, 5.

One member of the delegation, Alexander Coleman, a Freeport mechanic, said he was not surprised that trouble developed in the bus station tearoom. He recited an incident of two years ago, when he entered the tea room with a Negro who was refused service.

The argument between the Negroes and the tearoom owner which led to the fatal shootings was said by relatives of the Fergusons to have developed over the refusal of Scholakis to serve them.

Included in the delegation that demanded action from the police were Mrs. Bradley Smith, of the Freeport Community Council; Wiley Simmons, of Local 450, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; Stanley Faukner, National Lawyers Guild, David B. Adam, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Rev. Wesley N. Haines of Interfaith Community Council.

2-7-46

John Lavin, executive secretary of the Nassau County Communist Party, caracterized the police action as "a shocking murder in cold blood" having "the odor of the deep south."

The CP statement demanded the immediate dismissal of Patrolman Romeika and his indictment for murder of the two Negroes.

'MISCONDUCT' ISN'T THE WORD

Navy Clears Gob Shot By N.Y. Cop

Chicago Defender, Ill.

FREEPORT, L. I.—The U.S. Navy this week cleared Ship's Cook 3rd Class Joseph A. Ferguson of "misconduct" charges when a trigger-happy white cop shot him in the shoulder and killed his brothers, Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and Alonzo Ferguson, Feb. 5.

The official Navy statement brands as a lie the defense of Patrolman Joseph Romeika, who testified the Ferguson brothers were "disorderly" and that Charles had defense" story.

3-9-46

threatened him with a gun.

Romeika was whitewashed by the Nassau County grand jury on Feb. 21, on the basis of his "self-

Navy Probes Slayings

Following the shooting, the Navy command at Lido Beach, where Joseph was stationed, immediately placed the wounded sailor under arrest. He was charged with violating Article of War, conduct unbecoming Navy personnel.

The Navy Commander, Capt. Sidney ing's statement read. Bunting, ordered a full probe of the killings. After investigation was completed Captain Bunting ordered Joseph Ferguson released and restored to duty without trial.

"The evidence now available in the Ferguson slayings. Designated to carry the party's mand is being raised in New York nor Dewey reopen the case and appoint a special prosecutor in legislation introduced in Congress and passed.

3-9-46

New York. The full text of the resolution was as follows:

"Whereas, some 60 Negro soldiers and veterans have been murdered by lynch mobs and police since the end of the war; and

"Whereas, in the Freeport case, in New York, and elsewhere the de-AVC's National Planning Committee also stated that it would "make every effort" to have this

Everywhere, in a very difficult situation, and no more Mass meetings on the Freeport saults upon uniformed men and women a federal offense. The Committee was as follows:

"The party calls for immediate acceptance of the Federal Fair Employment Practices Act. State offer to build the New York relations by Freeport officials. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Saunders are running on a program designed to correct these conditions.

"The platform calls for immediate acceptance of the Federal Fair Employment Practices Act. State offer to build the New York housing project. It asks ton Park housing project. It demands unslum clearance. It demands civil and political rights for Negroes, and no more

passed a resolution in favor of a federal law to make assaulting held all over

diers were murdered in this country at the hands of irate fellow Americans, and, whereas, one Negro veteran and one serviceman were shot and killed and still another wounded by a Freeport, L. I., police officer; whereas, still another Negro veteran met death at the hands of an Alabama police officer and, whereas, the Department of Justice has not sought prosecution in a single case, moreover, the attorney general has declared himself helpless to proceed in such prose-utions: Be it resolved that the National Planning Committee of the American Veterans' Committee recognizes the need of a federal law making an assault upon a man or woman in uniform a federal offense. Be it further resolved that the American Veterans' Committee make every effort to have such legislation introduced into and passed by this Congress."

Sat.

Action on the Freeport killing has been taken not only by the national body of the AVC, but by the Long Beach chapter. The chapter, which conducted an investigation of the killings has instituted a demand to Governor Dewey to appoint a special attorney to replace District Atty. James N. Gehrig and to bring the police officer, Romeika, to trial on a murder charge.

Ruby Hill, left, star of *St. Louis Woman,* and Nancy Kenyon, of *Show Boat,* are two of the Broadway stars who will entertain at the cocktail party Sunday sponsored by the N. Y. Committee for Justice in Freeport at the Salle des Champagnes, 135 McDougall St. Proceeds will go toward the trust fund of $1500 the Committee has pledged to support the three orphaned children of Charles Ferguson, a Negro Army private who was killed by a Nassau County cop in February. *Photo by Martin Harris, P*

Freeport Jury Asks to Hear Fergusons' Lawyer

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Thurs 2-21-46

Special to the Daily Worker

MINEOLA, N. Y., Feb. 20.—The Nassau County Grand Jury is scheduled to continue hearing testimony at 10 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday) on the Freeport police slaying of two Ferguson brothers. Invited to appear before the jury is Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the family of the dead Negroes.

Navy Seaman Joseph Ferguson, brother of the slain men who was wounded by a police bullet, and Richard, another brother at the scene of the shooting on Feb. 5, have already appeared.

Prior to going into the jury room, Richard Ferguson said his dead brothers, Charles, an Air Corps private and Alfonso, a war veteran, had made no threats, as far as he knew, aginst Ptrolman Joseph Romeika, who shot them.

Romeika and Gus Scholakis, a lunch stand proprietor, charged the brothers were "disorderly" and "threatening." The cop said Charles Ferguson pretended to be armed. But Richard said Romeika deliberately kicked Charles in the groin, shot him and then fired on the others.

Thurs 2-21-46

More than a dozen Ferguson case witnesses were heard by the grand jury in an all-day session Tuesday. in the new Nassau County Courthouse. Among these were Romeika, Scholakis, Freeport Police Chief, Peter Elar, Freeport Mayor Cyril Ryan and two white women who were in the lunchroom when the four brothers were refused service.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig indicated Faulkner may be the last witness. Faulkner was not in his New York office today. His secretary said he was out of town and did not know Gehrig sought his appearance in Mineola tomorrow. She said she would seek to reach Faulkner.

A meeting protesting the killings is scheduled in Odd Fellows Hall, South Franklin St., Hempstead, tomorrow (Thursday) night, with New York City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis as main speaker.

Throughout Nassau County a strong Ku Klux Klan spirit is being whipped up in official circles in support of Romeika.

Freeport Group Hits Hempstead Mayor for Ban

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Special to the Daily Worker

FREEPORT, L. I., March 31.—Mayor Herbert Hirschell of Hempstead was charged with "flagrant violation of the civil rights of Nassau citizens" today by the Freeport Committee for Justice in the Ferguson Case.

Mon 4-1-46

The Committee's statement, was in response to Mayor Hirschell's arbitrary closing of the local Elks Hall when the Committee had scheduled a Conference on Human Rights. They intend to challenge the Mayor's ruling on legal grounds.

Hirschell wrote the committee that he had "confidential information . . . that persons and patriotic groups . . . will attempt to break up the meeting." He red-baited the Committee's work to secure full justice to the Ferguson brothers stating that "communistic elements . . . will create incidents of an inflammatory nature designed to create disorder or worse."

SCORE RED-BAITING

But the Committee's scored the mayor's red-baiting when it charged that Hirschell was derelict in his duty.

"In his own words," the statement read, "without identifying the groups, he admits that those who oppose the meeting threatened 'to break up the meeting.' The threat of a disturbance came not from the Ferguson Committee but from those who take upon themselves the right to decide what others may or may not discuss."

The Hempstead mayor's real aim is to prevent Governor Dewey's investigation of the Ferguson case, which numerous citizens are increasingly demanding. His major objection to the scheduled conference was that its "around purpose" it is "interfering with and superceding the normal and regular proceses of laws in this state."

CHALLENGE DISTORTION

But the committee's statement observed that "everyone knows that the Freeport Citizens' Committee is requesting the appointment of a special investigator by Governor Thomas E. Dewey, a **normal, frequent and legal procedure exercised in this state.** As a mater of fact, Governor Thomas E. Dewey first made his reputation as a special prosecutor in New York City."

The Hempstead mayor was also answered on his false charge that the Freeport Committee for Justice in the Ferguson Case had a "baneful effect in respect to slum clearance and other matters." The Committee told the mayor that this is a "long standing unsolved issue," and reminded the Mayor that "only property owners were permitted to vote on the referendum on housing" recently defeated in the Freeport elections."

Mon 4-1-46

Demands Trial for Freeport Killer

Daily Worker

Long Island City, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker: N.Y.

I have just sent the following letter to J. N. Gehrig, District Attorney of Nassau County, in regard to the Freeport case:

"Recently I returned from four years of active duty in the Navy. Much of that time was spent on a ship which saw at least five major encounters with the enemy. On that ship were over 30 Negro sailors. They were shipmates to be proud of.

Thurs. 2-28-46

"Many of us are back from the war for freedom and democracy. But what goes in in America? What goes in in Freeport, Long Island? Two GIs are shot and killed in an American street with an American gun for having the gall to ask for a cup of coffee—and wanting to pay for it—in a public restaurant.

"I ask that you bring this trigger-happy policeman to book in the American way. I ask that you take him out of uniform, take his smoking gun away, and bring him before a grand jury composed of citizens both black and white—a jury that will get at the real truth and act on it in the proper way.

D. RAPPAPORT.

Is Uniformed Killer Above the Law?

New York.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The following is part of a letter I wrote to the Mayor of Freeport:

"It is not easy for me to find words adequately to express my sense of indignation at the fact that the law-enforcing agencies in your city have been found incompetent to extend the full measure of the protection of the law to all residents of Freeport. I refer of course to the shockingly lawless conduct both of some of your citizens and of a member of your police force that led to the death of the two veterans of this war (one of them actually a reenlisted soldier), to the wounding of a third and to the imprisonment of a fourth. Surely the wife and three little children of one of the veterans killed have a right to expect more from the country that their father and husband so recently defended! Surely the veterans of this war deserve a better fate than they got at the hands of a killer who wears a police uniform and therefore thinks himself above the law of this land!"

MORRIS U. SCHAPPES.

An Earlier Case of Freeport Discrimination

Freeport, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Apropos the shooting of the Negro boys here recently, can you see any connection between that case and the one of the Negro girl, Linda Lee, who was refused service in the Franklin Square Diner and whose court action against the diner was decided against her in the District Court of Nassau County? This decision was rendered just before the Ferguson killings. It might just be possible that the Lee case acted as a green light.

To do away completely with race bias, we must abolish the system which engenders it.

We must intensify our struggle until the guilty policeman is brought to trial and the Ferguson family compensated insofar as is possible.

READER

Race Hatred Part Of Capitalist System

Detroit, Mich.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Freeport GI slayings reported in the Sunday Worker, Feb. 17, but serve to remind us of the deepening, ever-growing crisis of a dying capitalism. Race hatred is part of the capitalist system. To do away completely with race bias, we must abolish the system which engenders it.

We must intensify our struggle until the guilty policeman is brought to trial and the Ferguson family compensated insofar as is possible.

J. F. JOHNSON.

Thurs. 2-28-46

16b 1946 Negroes, by Policemen (N. Y., Freeport)

Taps Sound for Slain Negro GI

Daily Worker New York

2-9-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

FREEPORT, L. I., Feb. 8.—The last three bugle notes of "taps" faded across the broad stretch of the sun-bathed Long Island National Cemetery this afternoon. A casket bearing the body of Pvt. Charles R. Ferguson, U. S. Army Air Corps, was lowered into the ground.

Ferguson, a 27-year-old Negro, had served honorably in the war against fascism. But he did not die as he would have preferred to die, on the field of battle. His young life was snuffed out last Tuesday by a bullet from a service revolver of a Negro-hating policeman.

Yet, as though he had fallen in a military campaign, he was buried with full military honors. A neat flag of his country, supplied by the U. S. Army Quartermaster, was carefully draped over his casket. There was an Army rifle squad. Three volleys were fired. A clergyman said a prayer. Everything was strictly regulation and GI.

WIDOW WEEPS

Standing before the open grave, Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, the widow, wept bitterly. A small group of relatives and neighbors stood with bowed heads. More neighbors would have come. But there was little room in the small caravan of borrowed cars that drove the 17 miles to the cemetery. And some had to stay behind in the Ferguson home to be with little two-year-old Wilfred, three-year-old Richard and Charles, five, children of the dead soldier. They did not know their father was dead. 2-9-46

As the sad little caravan drove back to Freeport, another funeral procession bearing the body of Alfonzo Ferguson, war veteran and brother of Charles, who was likewise shot to death by the trigger-happy cop on that tragic Tuesday, was on its way to another open grave.

Alfonzo's funeral was simple. There were no military trappings. Navy Seaman 3/c Joseph Ferguson, the third brother, who received a bullet wound from the same police gun, stood at the graveside when Alfonzo's body was lowered.

Richard Ferguson, fourth brother at the scene of the killings, did not attend the funerals. He was in Nassau County jail where,

HIS Mentors

protesting innocence, he was railroaded for 100 days on a disorderly conduct charge. Richard is the one who charged yesterday from his cell that Policeman Joseph Romeika, slayer of his brothers, deliberately killed the two without provocation.

Romeika was whitewashed by local authorities when he said the brothers were "disorderly" and claimed Charles threatened him with a non-existent gun.

CASE NOT CLOSED 2-9-46

Perhaps Mayor Cyril Ryan of Freeport, Police Chief Peter Elar and Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig think the case against Policeman Romeika is a closed book now that the two brothers have been properly buried and the third jailed. But a growing citizens' movement is demanding justice in this village.

A citizens' meeting, called to discuss action on the issue, got under way here tonight in the Cleveland Ave. school. Plans are being discussed at the meeting for a protest rally, possibly on Lincoln's Birthday, Tuesday, with prominent local and national speakers.

Delegations are scheduled to visit the Mayor, Police Chief and the District Attorney to repeat a demand of an earlier delegation that an open public investigation of the slaying be made at once. 2-9-46

Joining the protest today were the Rev. Theodore Bobilin of Mineola, superintendent of 77 Long Island churches; Rabbi Rosenblatt of the Roosevelt Temple, and the Rev. Frederick W. Meyer of the Rockville Congregational Church. The Rev. Ben Richardson of Harlem is among the clergymen joining the protest.

POWELL DEMANDS PROBE

Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell telephoned from Washington that he had called on Gov. Dewey, the Nassau County District Attorney and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to launch separate investigations of the killings.

Powell said he would ask Hulan Jack, Harlem Assemblyman, to introduce a bill seeking a probe by the State Legislature. 2-9-46

Stanley Faulkner, attorney retained for Richard Ferguson, announced he would appear before a Supreme Court Judge seeking a writ of reasonable doubt. This, he said, would be a first step in the legal fight for the release of young Ferguson. Richard, an important witness, stated the cop shot the brothers following an argument in the Freeport Bus Terminal Tea Room over the proprietor's refusal to serve them coffee.

It was pointed out that with the release of Richard Ferguson steps could be taken to block an attempt of the Grand Jury whitewash of Policeman Romeika next Wednesday.

—by Fred Ellis

Justice for Fergusons, Says Freeport Communist Rally Asks

Daily Worker New York Sat 2-23-46

Special to the Daily Worker

HEMPSTEAD, L. I., Feb. 22.—Three hundred Negro and white citizens last night braved intimidation to attend a meeting called by the Hempstead club of the Communist Party to protest the police killings of Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson, Negro veterans.

Cries of indignation greeted the announcement that the Grand Jury had whitewashed the slaying and that Patrolman Joseph Romeika was still walking Freeport streets with

Charles, spoke; asking that her husband's slayer be punished. She added she did not know how she was going to feed her three children. She had not received any aid from the Army.

The crowd jammed the tiny Negro Odd Fellow's lodge rooms—the only place in the county that would permit the meeting—to hear Councilman Benjamin Davis, John Lavin, Nassau County Communist Party secretary and Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and others.

Lavin told how Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of Charles' death, was held and sentenced to 100 days in jail without a lawyer.

PROTEST WHITEWASH

Lavin told how Mrs. Minnie Ferguson learned of Charles' death in jail, without medical care; how Richard, the fourth brother, was held and sentenced to 100 days in jail without a lawyer.

The meeting sent resolutions to Albany, to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and Mayor Cyril Ryan of Freeport, and voted to send a delegation, led by New man Davis, Nassau

a gun.

Davis pledged the Communist Party to fight for justice for the Fergusons. The Negro people should join the party, he said, "because the Republican Party is in power here, and they have whitewashed the slayer. The Democratic Party has done nothing to see justice done."

"Workers all over the world will fight to see justice done in Freeport," Davis declared. "This is the big fight. This is the fight for the peace. It is the fight against Rankin, Bilbo and District Attorney Gehrig."

Michael Orfnick, a member of UE Local 450, Rev. Enoch Terry, and Rev. Charles Cooper, Hempstead Negro ministers, and Arthur Harris, a vet, also spoke.

Wire Dewey For Action on Freeport Killing

As Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig cynically promised two weeks ago, the case of the brutal police slaying of a Negro GI and his brother, a war veteran, in Freeport, Feb. 5, was given "routine" treatment by the Grand Jury.

A lily-white jury of 23 Long Island property owners—working men and women without real estate are barred from Grand Jury duty—whitewashed Joseph Romeika, the killer-cop. Gehrig said the cop was "justified."

But was he?

A Freeport Citizens Committee says NO! Hundreds of democratic organizations of the people and thousands upon thousands of individual Americans say NO!

The cop says he killed the Negroes—Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and Alfonzo Ferguson—when he "thought" they were armed. But they had no arms.

This is a case of Dixie-style justice. It is a result of a Jim-crow pattern of life in Freeport.

The Freeport case must become the case of the people of America vs. policeman Romeika, District Attorney Gehrig and Freeport Police Chief Peter Elar.

Why is Gov. Dewey silent? He must act. Wire him. Demand:

- **A special investigation of the slaying.**
- **Removal of District Attorney Gehrig.**
- **Appointment of a special prosecutor to supersede Gehrig in the case.**
- **The selection of a special Grand Jury, including Negro jurymen, to hear all evidence of the shooting.**

Demand removal of Police Chief Elar, suspension of policeman Romeika and his indictment and trial for manslaughter.

This was a lynch-like killing in the rotten tradition of Bilbo's and Rankin's Mississippi. It must receive no legal justification in New York. The killer must be punished.

Freeport Probe Termed Fraud

Gov. Dewey's investigation of the shooting of the three Negro Ferguson brothers by police in Freeport last January was described as "a fraudulent whitewash" by George H. Rooney, candidate for the Democratic and ALP nominations in the 4th congressional district yesterday.

Rooney said the entire investigation was not intended to produce the truth in the killing of the Negroes and characterized it as "as shocking an example of disregard for the welfare of Negro citizens as any that might come out of the darkest parts of the South."

Cop Kicked Slain Negro GI In Groin Before Shooting

By HARRY RAYMOND

FREEPORT, L. I., Feb. 7.—Policeman Joseph Romeika kicked Private Charles R. Ferguson, Negro soldier, in the groin before shooting him and his 25-year-old brother, Alfonzo, to death here last Tuesday. This charge was made today by Richard Ferguson, 22-year-old brother of the dead men and veteran of World War II.

Richard told the story of the fatal shooting, in his cell at Nassau County Jail, Mineola, where he is serving 100 days on a charge of disorderly conduct. Standing beside his brothers near the Freeport bus terminal, when they were slain—and when a third brother, U.S. Navy Seaman Third Class Joseph Ferguson, was wounded—Richard was arrested, given a quick trial and hustled off to jail.

The four brothers went out Tuesday night for a little family celebration for Charles, who had reenlisted in the army and was home on furlough, Richard explained. They had a few beers, he said, but none was drunk, as charged by police.

The four, he said, entered the Terminal Tea Room in the Freeport bus station and asked the proprietor Gus Scholakis to serve them coffee. Scholakis, according to Richard, said he could not give them coffee. Scholakis and Charles got into an argument.

WALKED OUT

Richard said the brothers Joseph and Alfonzo then took Charles by the arm and they left the place.

The group, walking in pairs, later came up Henry St., he said, and approached the bus station again. At this point, Richard stated, policeman Romeika seized Charles and Alfonzo.

Richard said the cop then kicked Charles in the groin, drew his gun and made the group raise their hands above their heads.

The next thing Richard heard was a shot from the policeman's gun. Charles fell dead. Alfonzo, who was standing behind him, was dropped with the same bullet. Alfonzo died later in a Mineola hospital.

Policeman Romeika, according to Richard, then walked around the group and deliberately fired another shot at Joseph, the Navy man, who fell wounded through the shoulder.

The cop, exonerated by local Police Chief Peter Elar, had testified Charles pretended to have a gun. He said he fired in what he believed to be self-defense. None of the brothers had a gun.

SAW NO THREATS

Richard insists he did not see or hear Charles make any threatening gestures toward the policeman.

Richard was visited in jail for the first time today by Stanley Faulkner, attorney of 11 W. 42 St., New York City, who was retained for the case by a local committee.

Faulkner, a leading figure in the National Lawyers Guild and a resident of Nassau County, planned to make application in Freeport Police Court today before Justice Hilbert R. Johnson, for retrial of Richard's case.

Protests against failure of local officials to take drastic action against Patrolman Romeika are pouring into the office of Mayor Cyril Ryan and the village board at Municipal Building here.

RALLIES PLANNED

A group of Freeport citizens, both Negro and white, will meet tomorrow night in the Cleveland Ave. school, Cleveland Ave. and Freeport St., to plan countywide protest against the police action. Other rallies are being planned to take place before the case goes to the Grand Jury in Mineola, next Wednesday.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig indicated an attempt will be made to whitewash the whole affair. He said the grand jury action would be merely a "routine" matter.

The bereaved family of the dead men is preparing funeral services in Great Neck tomorrow for Charles, first to fall under the police bullet.

The funeral for Alfonzo will be held later.

The entire Negro community of more than 2,000 here has been thrown into a state of fear. They state they are afraid to leave their homes at night. Many of them told the Daily Worker that no family feels safe here.

"It's just like the Jim-crow south has moved North across the Mason and Dixon line," one Freeport Negro said."

63 Organizations Ask Freeport D. A. Ouster

Representatives of 63 organizations announced yesterday support of Committee for Justice in Freeport's demand that Gov. Dewey remove Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig and institute a special grand jury investigation of the Freeport police slaying of a Negro GI and his brother.

The organizations are:

National Citizens P.A.C.; Veterans Committee; Fifth, Ninth, 10th A.D., United Labor Union Legionnaires; Great Neck, ALP; Flatbush Chapter, International Labor Defense; New Tools for Learning; American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born; American Labor Party, N. Y. 65, County; Japanese-American Committee for Democracy; National CIO, Community Service Committee; Artists League of America.

Also, Communist Party—Queens County; N. Y. State American Association, CIO; Communist Party Houses Coordinating Committee; Youth for Democracy; Metropolitan—Section 2; United Electrical Workers, Local 475, CIO; Queens Legislation Veterans Committee; American Jewish Youth Service; Painters Union, Local 905; Theatre Unity Committee; Fifth, Ninth, 10th A.D., Great Neck, ALP; Flatbush Chapter, AVC; Citizens Committee of Upper West Side; United Office and Professional Workers of America; Fur Workers, Local 85, CIO; Operators Union, Local 105; American Council, Veterans Committee; Brownsville Neighborhood Council; World War II National Maritime Union; Bronx Council Against Discrimination; Furriers Joint Council; Transport Workers Union.

Joining the rising tide of indignation against the attempted whitewash, the CIO Veterans Committee yesterday passed a resolution calling on Governor Dewey to launch a full investigation of the case. "The veterans of this city are shocked and angered by the crime that took place in Freeport, L. I., and was committed in the spirit of Buchenwald and Belsen. They demand a full investigation. They demand retribution," the resolution said.

Davis pledged the Communist Party to fight for justice for the Fergusons. The Negro people should join the party, he said, "because the Republican Party is in power here, and they have whitewashed the slayer. The Democratic Party has done nothing to see justice done."

"Workers all over the world will fight to see justice done in Freeport," Davis declared. "This is the big fight. This is the fight for the peace. It is the fight against Rankin, Bilbo and District Attorney Gehrig."

Michael Orfnick, a member of UE Local 450, Rev. Enoch Terry, and Rev. Charles Cooper, Hempstead Negro ministers, and Arthur Harris, a vet, also spoke.

prosecutor to supersede Gehrig in the case.

● The selection of a special Grand Jury, including Negro jurymen, to hear all evidence of the shooting.

Demand removal of Police Chief Elar, suspension of policeman Romeika and his indictment and trial for manslaughter.

This was a lynch-like killing in the rotten tradition of Bilbo's and Rankin's Mississippi. It must receive no legal justification in New York. The killer must be punished.

Freeport Probe Termed Fraud

Daily Worker
Mon. 1-29-46

Gov. Dewey's investigation of the shooting of the three Negro Ferguson brothers by police in Freeport last January was described as "a fraudulent whitewash" by George H. Rooney, candidate for the Democratic and ALP nominations in the 4th congressional district yesterday.

Rooney said the entire investigation was not intended to produce the truth in the killing of the Negroes and characterized it as "as shocking an example of disregard for the welfare of Negro citizens as any that might come out of the darkest parts of the South."

Mon. 1-29-46

Wire Dewey For Action on Freeport Killing

As Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig cynically promised two weeks ago, the case of the brutal police slaying of a Negro GI and his brother, a war veteran, in Freeport, Feb. 5, was given "routine" treatment by the Grand Jury.

A lily-white jury of 23 Long Island property owners—working men and women without real estate are barred from Grand Jury duty—whitewashed Joseph Romeika, the killer-cop. Gehrig said the cop was "justified."

But was he?

A Freeport Citizens Committee says NO! Hundreds of democratic organizations of the people and thousands upon thousands of individual Americans say NO!

The cop says he killed the Negroes—Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and Alfonzo Ferguson—when he "thought" they were armed. But they had no arms.

This is a case of Dixie-style justice. It is a result of a Jim-crow pattern of life in Freeport.

The Freeport case must become the case of the people of America vs. policeman Romeika, District Attorney Gehrig and Freeport Police Chief Peter Elar.

Why is Gov. Dewey silent? He must act. Wire him. Demand:

● A special investigation of the slaying.

● Removal of District Attorney Gehrig.

● Appointment of a special

Cop Kicked Slain Negro GI In Groin Before Shooting

Daily Worker
New York
2-8-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

FREEPORT, L. I., Feb. 7.—Policeman Joseph Romeika kicked Private Charles R. Ferguson, Negro soldier, in the groin before shooting him and his 25-year-old brother, Alfonzo, to death here last Tuesday. This charge was made today by Richard Ferguson, 22-year-old brother of the dead men and veteran of World War II.

Richard told the story of the fatal shooting, in his cell at Nassau County Jail, Mineola, where he is serving 100 days on a charge of disorderly conduct. Standing beside his brothers near the Freeport bus terminal, when they were slain—and when a third brother, U.S. Navy Seaman Third Class Joseph Ferguson, was wounded—Richard was arrested, given a quick trial and hustled off to jail.

The four brothers went out Tuesday night for a little family celebration for Charles, who had reenlisted in the army and was home on furlough, Richard explained. They had a few beers, he said, but none was drunk, as charged by police.

The four, he said, entered the Terminal Tea Room in the Freeport bus station and asked the proprietor Gus Scholakis to serve them coffee. Scholakis, according to Richard, said he could not give them coffee. Scholakis and Charles got into an argument. 2-8-46

WALKED OUT

Richard said the brothers Joseph and Alfonzo then took Charles by the arm and they left the place.

The group, walking in pairs, later came up Henry St., he said, and approached the bus station again. At this point, Richard stated, policeman Romeika seized Charles and Alfonzo.

Richard said the cop then kicked Charles in the groin, drew his gun and made the group raise their hands above their heads.

The next thing Richard heard was a shot from the policeman's gun. Charles fell dead. Alfonzo, who was standing behind him, was dropped with the same bullet. Alfonzo died later in a Mineola hospital.

Policeman Romeika, according to Richard, then walked around the group and deliberately fired another shot at Joseph, the Navy man, who fell wounded through the shoulder.

The cop, exonerated by local Police Chief Peter Elar, had testified Charles pretended to have a gun. He said he fired in what he believed to be self-defense. None of the brothers had a gun.

SAW NO THREATS

Richard insists he did not see or hear Charles make any threatening gestures toward the policeman.

Richard was visited in jail for the first time today by Stanley Faulkner, attorney of 11 W. 42 St., New York City, who was retained for the case by a local committee. 2-8-46

Faulkner, a leading figure in the National Lawyers Guild and a resident of Nassau County, planned to make application in Freeport Police Court today before Justice Hilbert R. Johnson, for retrial of Richard's case.

Protests against failure of local officials to take drastic action against Patrolman Romeika are pouring into the office of Mayor Cyril Ryan and the village board at Municipal Building here.

RALLIES PLANNED

A group of Freeport citizens, both Negro and white, will meet tomorrow night in the Cleveland Ave. school, Cleveland Ave. and Freeport St., to plan countywide protest against the police action. Other rallies are being planned to take place before the case goes to the Grand Jury in Mineola, next Wednesday.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig indicated an attempt will be made to whitewash the whole affair. He said the grand jury action would be merely a "routine" matter.

The bereaved family of the dead men is preparing funeral services in Great Neck tomorrow for Charles, first to fall under the police bullet.

The funeral for Alfonzo will be held later. 2-8-46

The entire Negro community of more than 2,000 here has been thrown into a state of fear. They state they are afraid to leave their homes at night. Many of them told the Daily Worker that no family feels safe here.

"It's just like the Jimcrow south has moved North across the Mason and Dixon line," one Freeport Negro said."

63 Organizations Ask Freeport D. A. Ouster

Daily Worker, N.Y. Mon. 2-25-46

Representatives of 63 organizations announced yesterday support of the Committee for Justice in Freeport's demand that Gov. Dewey remove District Attorney James N. Gehrig and institute a special grand jury investigation in Freeport police slaying of a Negro nating Council; National Negro tive Council; Congress; International Workers Order; Veterans Against Discrimina- Municipal Workers GI and his brother. tion; N. J. State CIO Veterans Austrian American The organizations are: Committee; National Citizens P.A.C.; Veterans Also Utility Workers Union of erans Committee; United Labor Union Legionnaires; New America, Local 196; United Whole- Brighton Beach ALP. International Conference of Commission, Also Hotel and Club Employees Schools for Learning; American Com- America, Local 196; United Whole- Also Hotel and Club Employees mittee for Protection of Foreign sale and Warehouse Workers, Local Union, Local 6; born; American Labor Party, N. Y. born; American Labor Party, N. Y. 65, CIO; Central Harlem Civic Association, P.S. 184, 188; County; Japanese-American Com- Council; State, County and Crown Heights Interfaith and Inter-racial mittee for Democracy; National CIO, Municipal Workers of America, Lo- Workers Union. Community Service Committee; Ar- cal 28, Veterans Committee; Joe Ethical Culture School; Leagues of America. York Club; Consolidated Tenants Fellowship, Also, Communist Party—Queens League; American Communications Chelsea Club; Brooklyn United County; N. Y. State American Association, CIO; Communist Party Houses Coordinating Committee; Workers Union. Committee for Democracy; Metropolitan—Section 2; United Electrical Work- I.W.O. Solidarity Lodge 69; Allerfaith and Inter-racial Coordi- ers, Local 475, CIO; Queens Legisla- ton Veterans Committee; American

Joining the rising tide of indignation against the attempted whitewash, the CIO Veterans Committee yesterday passed a resolution calling on Governor Dewey to launch a full investigation of the case. "The veterans of this city are shocked and angered by the crime that took place in Freeport, L. I., and was committed in the spirit of Buchenwald and Belsen. They demand a full investigation. They demand retribution," the resolution said.

Mon 2-25-46

Jimcrow Pulled the Trigger in Freeport

Murder of 2 Negro Brothers, one a GI, Just 'Routine Case' to Long Island DA

By HARRY RAYMOND

FREEPORT, L. I.—Behind the shooting to death of two Negro brothers, one a GI, and the wounding of a Navy man, by a local cop here last Tuesday is an ugly story of Jimcrow.

Refusal of Gus Scholakis, owner of the Terminal Tea Room, to serve the three Negroes and another brother is the spark that set off an argument that ended in the fatal shooting, a private investigation by The Worker indicates.

Private Charles R. Ferguson, 27, home on Army furlough, and Alfonzo, 25, a civilian, were shot to death and Seaman Third Class Joseph Ferguson, 20, was badly wounded by Joseph Romeika, rookie patrolman, after the Tea Room owner charged them with making a disturbance.

Romeika was exonerated by Police Chief Peter Elar, who said Romeika fired when Charles threatened him with a .45-caliber pistol. Official testimony shows none of the Negroes was armed.

SENT UP

And just to rub it in and increase the difficulties of the grief-stricken Ferguson family, Richard Ferguson, 22, was sent after a brief police court trial to the Nassau County Jail for 100 days. Police Justice Hilbert R. Johnson sentenced Richard, protesting his innocence, to the limit on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Richard, obviously confused by court routine and having no legal advice, pleaded guilty to the disorderly charge. At the same time he denied creating disorder. He was given an alternate sentence of $100 fine.

Members of the Ferguson family told me little pieces of the story of the shooting as they heard it from Richard Ferguson and Herman Crummel. Crummel, an in-law relative, was at the scene of the killing and was released after several hours of police grilling.

The four brothers, according to these sources, were out celebrating Charles' reenlistment in the Army. Joseph, the Navy man, was in on leave from the Lido Beach Navy Base.

As relatives reconstructed the incident, the four brothers started out Monday night at 9 p. m. in their home village of Roosevelt. They had some beer at several Hempstead bars.

They then came over to Freeport to continue celebrating in a Negro tavern at Helen and Alexander Streets. The quartet finally wound up in the Bus Terminal Tea Room some time after 1 a. m. Tuesday. They sat there for a while and when the owner refused to serve them coffee an argument ensued, Pvt. Charles Ferguson denouncing the owner's Jimcrow attitude.

From here on things moved fast. Patrolman Romeika, called to the scene, took the brothers in custody, drew his pistol and lined them up with their hands in the air against the wall of the Sinclair Raynor Coal Co.'s office, 150 feet from the bus terminal.

Meanwhile, Crummel, who was in the neighborhood, went over to see why his relatives were being held.

The cop arrested Crummel and ordered his hands up too.

BEGINS FIRING

There was an argument between Charles and the cop. The cop commenced firing his pistol. Charles fell dead. Alfonzo and Joseph toppled over. Alfonzo died at 10:12 in Meadowbrook Hospital. Joseph, with a bullet in his shoulder, was rushed to the Navy Base Hospital at Lido Beach.

The other brother, Richard, and Crummel, the bystander, were taken to Freeport Police Headquarters. Crummel was released after a five-hour grilling, Richard Ferguson was hailed into Police Court and quickly sentenced to jail.

"These boys have always been good boys," said a member of the Ferguson family. "They never carried guns. I don't know how all this happened. It's terrible."

HAD NO GUNS

Lt. Marcel Chagnon, Nassau detective who investigated the case, said Romeika shot the Negroes when Charles said he had a gun and reached for his pocket. He quoted Charles as saying: "You won't take me in." But the Negroes had no guns.

It was pointed out by local citizens, white and Negro, who formed committees to demand an investigation of the case, that the Terminal Tea Room owner had refused to serve Negroes on other occasions. Alexander Coleman, a local mechanic, told of one such incident. Richard Saunders, local Negro sign painter and member of one delegation to City Hall, charged that behind the action of the trigger-happy cop was the Jimcrowing of 2,000 Negro citizens of the Freeport area.

"Second-class citizenship exists here for the Negro," he told Police Chief Elar. "People are not satisfied with the outcome of this case."

They are also not satisfied with the announcement of District Attorney James N. Gehrig that the matter will be just "another routine case" before the grand jury next Tuesday.

Expressing this dissatisfaction were Bertram Alves and Lester Davis, of United Veterans for Equality; David B. Adams, former head of the Nassau County National Association for Advancement of Colored People, a delegation from the Sperry Local of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO.

DEMAND INDICTMENT

The protest movement is growing here in Freeport, with the Communist Party demanding indictment and trial of Romeika for murder.

Delegations have bombarded Mayor Cyril Ryan with demands for a thorough investigation. Some groups report planning public mass meetings to demand that the authorities get to the bottom of the case. Attorneys of the National Lawyers Guild, headed by Stanley Faulkner, of 11 W. 42 St., New York City, are taking legal action for the release of Richard Ferguson from the Nassau County Jail.

The case against Policeman Romeika is a long way from being closed. That seems to be the opinion of a good section of Freeport citizens.

Protest Rally Demands Killer-Cop Suspension

Special to the Daily Worker

FREEPORT, L. I., Feb. 18.—An angry meeting of Negro and white citizens last night demanded the immediate suspension of Patrolman Joseph Romeika who killed the two Ferguson brothers and wounded a third.

Approximately 350 crowded Pythian Hall here while hundreds were turned away for lack of space. Organized by the Citizens Committee for Defense of the Ferguson Brothers, the meeting also demanded that Gov. Dewey open an investigation. It denounced both Police Chief Peter Elar and Mayor Cyril Ryan for mishandling the case.

Richard Ferguson, fourth brother, who was railroaded to jail and only recently released because of citizens' pressure, was present. So was grief-stricken Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of the slain GI, Charles. The same cop slew Alfonzo Ferguson, a veteran, and wounded another brother, Joseph.

Mrs. Ferguson, wearing mourning, told the meeting she appreciated the people's fight for justice and hoped the cop would "get what's coming to him."

Communist Party representative John Lavin, of Nassau County, speaking from the floor, said that the Communist Party has been active in this case from the very beginning and would continue to be wherever injustice is committed. He urged the community to unite and not to be divided by the "Red issue." The real issue, he said, "is to fight all attacks on the Negro people."

PRIEST HITS RED-BAITING

The Rev. Bobolin, supervisor of 77 Long Island Methodist Churches, also warned against red-baiting. "Keep your eye on the ball," he said, adding that if the Communists are working for justice in this case the community should welcome them and work with them.

Assemblyman Hulan Jack, Democrat, told the meeting, "I shall not rest until the Grand Jury has indicted Romeika for a crime, and if justice is thwarted, I shall take the case to the State Legislature." Romeika has no more right than a Nazi to carry a gun, he said.

Davis to Speak in Hempstead Thursday

Communist City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., will speak in Hempstead, L. I., this Thursday, Feb. 21, on the slaying of the Ferguson brothers by Patrolman Joseph Romeika, Freeport cop.

The meeting will be held at Oddfellows Hall on South Franklin St., Hempstead.

Prominent spokesman of unions and other organizations will be on the program.

Stanley Faulkner, lawyer for the Ferguson family, reviewed the legal aspects and announced that the Junior Hahassah, the Anti-Nazi League, the National Committee to Combat Anti-Semitism, the NAACP and the Urban League as well as the Communists are "fighting this fight."

REPRESENTS ALL MINORITIES

Rabbi Gittelsohn of the Masonic Temple, Rockville Center, pointed out that "the Ferguson family represents all Negroes, Protestants, Jews and Catholics," and all minorities. "Romeika represents the Rankins and Bilbos," he stated "What we are doing now is just as important as any battle in the war," he said. Gittelsohn has just returned from service in Iwo Jima.

A Negro veteran, Lt. Bertram Alves of United Veterans for Equality, said: **"The two shots revealed that the tentacles of Southern lynching and lynch terror have spread north of the Mason Dixon line. They herald the opening of an all-out offensive aimed at smashing all progress made by the Negro people during the past few years."**

Mrs. Bradley Smith, member of the Freeport Community Council, was chairman.

Like a Cabin in the Black Belt

THE GHETTO HOME OF THE FAMILY OF SLAIN FREEPORT NEGRO GI

The misery of the family of Pfc. Charles Ferguson, of Freeport, L. I., one of the Negro brothers slain by patrolman Joseph Romeika, reflected all the horrors of the Jimcrow "ghetto" in which they live. His widow, Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, and their three children, Charles, five, Richard, three, and Wilfred, two, with Louis Jackson, Mrs. Ferguson's brother, live in one and one-half rooms.

When you enter the house, you wonder if this is New York, or, is it a cabin in the Black Belt in the deep South. The mother keeps warning the children to stay away from the broken window. She is afraid they would get cut on the broken glass.

It was warm inside the house that one-day but the weather was warm. One shudders to think what it is like when it is cold outside. The house is heated with an oil stove. There are cracks in the floor. The three little boys have no shoes. And wear no underwear, just little cloth suits. Their faces have that hungry look, as though there was never quite enough to eat. They are round and look fat about the body. But they appear like children who have eaten

lots of potatoes and other starches, with little else.

Their teeth tell a better story. The milk teeth are decayed from the lack of milk and fruit. Their nails are pale and thin. There are little dark rings under their eyes.

Mrs. Ferguson said: **"When the rent is paid, and I buy a little food and other things we cannot do without, there is just nothing left."** At present she has few funds. **"I don't know what the Army is going to do, and I have nothing," she said. "Charles—Little Charles, has to go to school, and the other children need some things, very badly."**

Mrs. Ferguson is working with the Committee for Justice for the Ferguson Boys, of Freeport.

"I feel that is the least I can do. I must keep busy," she said. "I have never spoken at the meetings. I always get so nervous, and can't go on. When I talk about it, it all comes back. **That policeman said Charles was drunk, that's a lie, he never drank very much at any time."** Her eyes are red from crying.

Louis Jackson, her brother is a veteran. He fought with the 92 Infantry Division, in Italy and Africa. He went into the Army when he was 18. He is now 21, with 24 months overseas service.

"When we were over there dodging Nazi bullets, I had no idea it would come so close to me here at home," he said. "That's not what I fought the war for. Looks like some of the things we saw over there." Mon 2-18-46

Then he said in a quiet voice: "Charles was such a good boy, he'd never hurt any one, Alfonso too. Alfonso was a tiny little fellow, with a bad heart, didn't do no drinking."

Jackson is still unemployed. All the jobs, he says, are given to other people.

"They offered me a dishwashing job for $22 a week," he said. "I didn't fight to wash dishes, I did that before I went to the Army." He belongs to the American Legion Post in Freeport. The post has done nothing about the killing.

"I joined that post for help if I get into trouble or need anything," he said. "The Commanding officer, George Anderson, promised to come out last Sunday. He never came."

Freeport Jury Hears Killer-Cop, Ferguson Lawyer on Stand Thurs.

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

By HARRY RAYMOND 2-20-46

MINEOLA, N. Y., Feb. 19.—The Nassau County Grand Jury heard evidence all day today on the Freeport police slaying two weeks ago of a Negro soldier and his war veteran brother. The jury adjourned at 6 p.m. to reconvene on the case Thursday morning.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig, who had previously declared the investigation of the killing would be "routine," announced that Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the family of the slain men, would be invited to testify at Thursday's session.

Gehrig, leaving the jury room, continued to express a hostile attitude toward those demanding indictment of the cop.

An array of more than a dozen witnesses were outside the grand jury room in the new Nassau County Courthouse.

Among them was Richard Ferguson, brother of the slain Negroes.

Called to testify was Joseph Romeika, policeman who fired the fatal shots. He shot the men down near the Freeport bus terminal, claiming one of the dead men, Pvt. Charles Ferguson, U. S. Army Air Corps, pretended to be armed. The other victim, a Navy sailor, was wounded in the shoulder.

According to the District Attorney, the policeman testified before the jury under a waiver of immunity.

Local citizens' groups and organizations throughout the state have been demanding the arrest, indictment and trial of Romeika for the slaying. The grand jury went into session on the case at 10 a.m. and spent eight hours hearing testimony. 2-20-46

Mayor Cyril Ryan and Police Chief Peter Elar of Freeport were among those called to the jury room. Also called were Mrs. Madeline Moher and Miss Joan Bollmer, white women, who rode into Freeport on a bus with the Ferguson brothers prior to the shooting.

Before going before the jury, the women stated that the Negroes were not disorderly as charged by police. They had also asserted that Gus Scholakis, Freeport bus terminal tearoom owner, refused to serve the Negroes coffee.

It was Scholakis who called the cop who shot the men. Scholakis charged the Negroes were "disorderly." The restaurant owner was also called as a witness.

Local clergymen of three faiths speaking at the third annual dinner given by the Nassau county committee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in Garden City Monday night, denounced racial feeling and discrimination. 2-20-46

Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn of the Central Synagogue, Rockville Center: **"I am positive that if the four brothers had been white men, they'd be alive today.** Because they were black, two are dead and one is critically injured. Second: it smells to high heaven if not higher."

The Reverend Arthur R. McKay of the Merrick Community Presbyterian church, Merrick, said, "Beat out the contradictions, the uncertainties in peoples minds by living brotherhood and preaching it."

The Rev. John Madden, assistant pastor of the Church of Our Holy Redeemer, Freeport stated: **"Some of the homes in the section called Bennington Park would make Tobacco Road look like Park Ave."**

Vet Killing by Cop Likened to Lynching by N.Y. Socialists

Daily American Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK.—Terming the killing of two Ferguson brothers, the wounding of a third and the imprisonment of the fourth as an application of jim-crow lynch law, the Socialist Workers' Party local urges all progressive groups to denounce the outrage. Sat 2-23-46

The shooting was committed by a policeman in Freeport, L. I., who charged that the brothers, who were celebrating their reunion after three years' separation, were guilty of disorderly conduct. The local says facts show the brothers, three of whom were service men were guilty of nothing.

Ferguson Justice Fight Carried to State Legislature

Daily Worker New York, New York

Harlem Assemblyman Hulan Jack announced yesterday he would take the fight for justice in the Freeport police slayings to the floor of the New York State Legislature.

He charged Nassau District Attorney James N. Gehrig's failure to fight for and secure an indictment of Freeport Patrolman Joseph Romeika, slayer of Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and his brother Alfonzo placed responsibility on the doorstep of the Long Island Republican Party machine. Tues 2-26-46

Assemblyman Jack, a Democrat declared Gehrig was attempting to make a political issue out of the whitewash by launching redbaiting attacks against persons demanding justice in the Ferguson case.

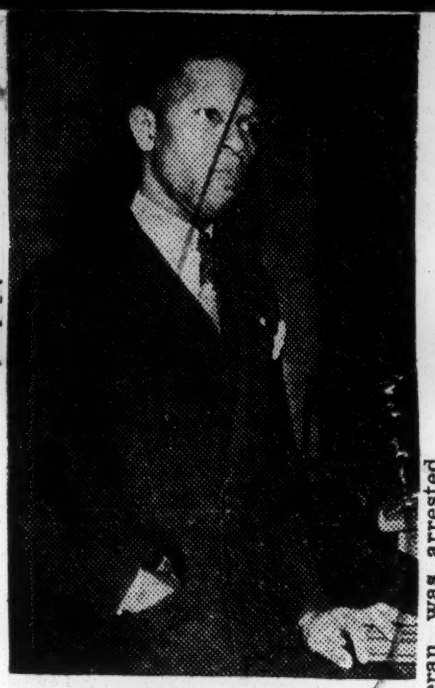
"I accept that challenge," said the Negro Assemblyman. **"It is my greatest joy that people, regardless of political affiliation, have joined this fight for justice."**

"As a representative of the people, I'll stick to the people and publicize this case and fight for justice in it. I will take the matter to the Governor and to the floor of the State Legislature."

ASKS GEHRIG OUSTER

The Assemblyman said he will seek the removal of Gehrig and designation of a special prosecutor to take the Ferguson killings before a new grand jury of both white and Negro jurors.

At the same time Paul Rassmussen, commander of the Calvin C. Adams Post of the American Legion, announced he had received a letter from Senator James M. Mead,



HULAN JACK

(D-NY) stating he was making inquiries into the case.

The Railway Express Employes Post of the American Legion, Philadelphia, advised Commander Rassmussen it, too had joined this fight.

Typical of reaction of trade union leaders was that of William Grogan, international vice-president of the Transport Workers Union, CIO. He said: "When I heard the story of this case my blood boiled."

FORM FREEPORT COMMITTEE

In the Village of Freeport, scene of the fatal shooting, a Committee for Justice has drawn up a petition to Gov. Dewey on the case.

The petition cites evidence that the shooting was unjustified, protests the prejudiced manner in which the case was presented to the Nassau County Grand Jury last week and asks the Governor to reopen the case under a special prosecutor. Tues 2-26-46

The committee is seeking 40,000 signatures to the petition.

"I haven't yet been able to find out why the police officer arrested the Ferguson brothers in the first place," declared Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family. "I have never seen such a display of labor-baiting and red-baiting as that put on by Gehrig in handling this case."

Faulkner charged Gehrig "acted more like he was trying the CIO and the Communist Party and not like one trying to indict the killer of two men."

Raymond to Speak On Freeport Tonight

The facts about the police slaying of the Ferguson brothers in Freeport, Feb. 5, will be told to a Brooklyn meeting tonight (Tuesday) by Harry Raymond, who covered the killings for the Daily Worker.

The meeting, under auspices of the Communist Party, will be in the Aperion Manor, 827 Kings Highway.

SLAIN SOLDIER ABSOLVED 4-17-46
Army Rules He Died in Line of Duty, Attorney Says
New York Times
GREAT NECK, L. I., April 15—

Private Fergu- for Richard, a veteran, was arrested w. Minnie, who lives at and sentenced next day to 100 ancis Street, Roosevelt, days in jail but the conviction was that Mrs. Ferguson was reversed later. A Navy board of ed to six months' pay inquiry cleared Joseph sion for the support of blame in the incident. N.Y. Sty l her three children. led in the shooting by Joseph Romeika, was brother, Alonzo. A ner, Joseph, a cook in was wounded in the while a fourth brother, shoulder while Wednesday

16b 1946

Negroes, by Policemen (New York--Freeport)

DIXIE COMES TO NEW YORK

Story of the Freeport GI Slayings

By HARRY RAYMOND

1¢

Sun. 3-3-46. The Worker New York, N.Y.

The pamphlet—"Dixie Comes to New York"—on the slaying of two Negro ex-servicemen in Freeport, L. I., has just been published by the Daily Worker. Written by Harry Raymond, veteran Daily worker reporter who first brought the case to public attention, the pamphlet has a foreword by City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, and has a cover illustration by Charles White, prominent Negro artist.

The pamphlet gives the facts of the the case, quotes the trial records, raises demands for ending jimcrow conditions.

The first edition of 100,000 is almost exhausted; a second printing is being prepared. Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained in quantity from the Daily Worker, 50 E. 13th St., New York 3, N. Y., at the rate of one cent per copy.

Dramatic Pamphlet Tells Story of Freeport Case

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Tue 3-5-46

When nine young Negroes were arrested late in March, 1931, and charged with raping two white girls, it was a routine event distinguished only by the number of those arrested.

Today it is history. The town of Scottsboro, Ala., is now known throughout the world—it has become a synonym for lynch frameups.

The Communist Party made this history. The Communist Party exposed the frameup and led the decade-long fight that freed the Scottsboro Boys.

Today the Scottsboro technique has moved north to New York. Two Negro brothers, one a soldier and the other a veteran, Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and Alonzo Ferguson are dead, slain by a trigger-happy cop, Joseph Romeika, in Freeport, L. I. A third brother, Navy Seaman 3-c Joseph Ferguson was wounded. Richard Ferguson, fourth brother, was jailed and later released. The Freeport case is becoming notorious.

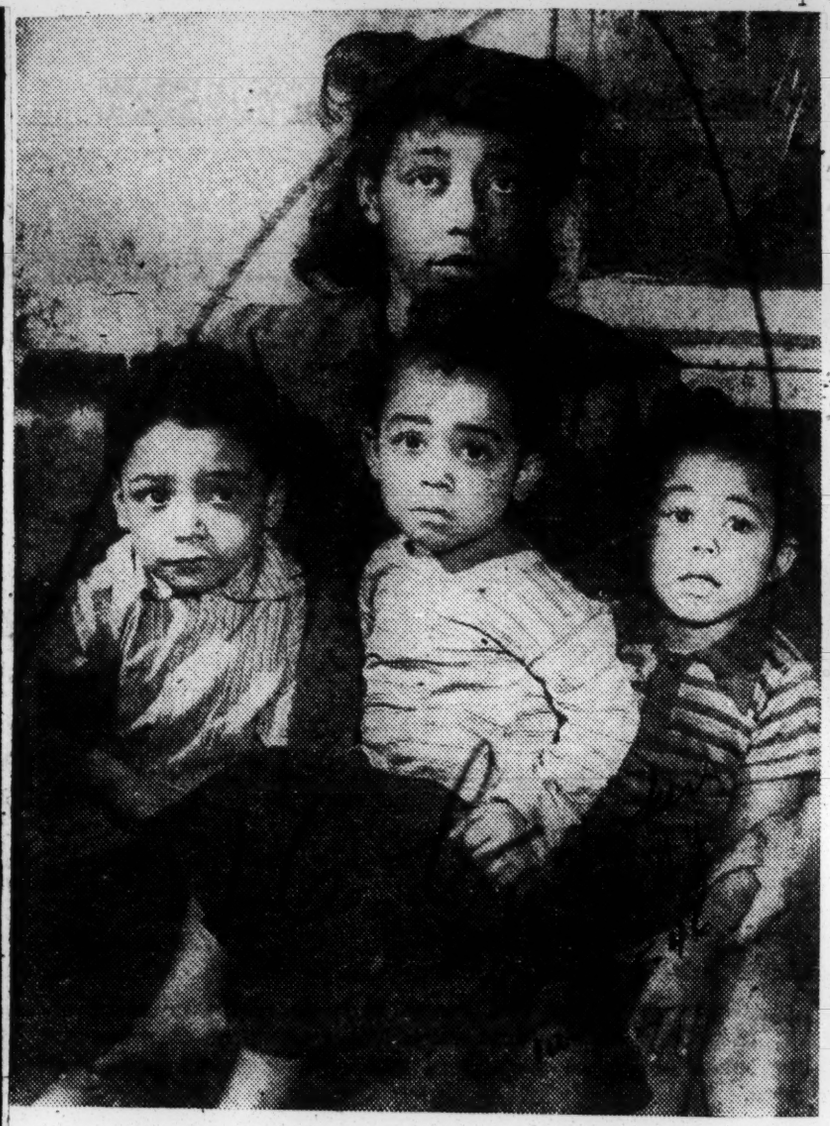
On-the-ball pamphlets keeping abreast of the issues helped bring the Scottsboro fight to a victorious conclusion. The tradition of these pamphlets has been revived in the Freeport case.

The Daily Worker has issued a penny pamphlet on the case (**Dixie Comes to New York** by Harry Raymond). The pamphlet tells the story of the slaying, the whitewash of the cop and the protest movement that has sprung up. Raymond, whose news stories in the Daily Worker focussed attention on Freeport, has written the story simply and forcefully.

Tues 3-5-46

The pamphlet contains an introduction by Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, a cover drawing by Charles White and photos of the late Pfc. Ferguson and his wife and children who survive him.

Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained from the Daily Worker at one cent per copy.



Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of the slain GI Charles Ferguson, and her three small children.

Skipper and Crew of 'Booker T.' To Sail on Freeport Delegation

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Jan 4-30-46

Crew members of the S.S. Booker T. Washington yesterday agreed to join the mass protest delegation to Albany, May 3, which will demand that Governor Dewey investigate the Freeport killings and bring the policeman slayer of the Ferguson brothers to justice. They also wired Gov. Dewey urging him to take such actions now and to meet with the delegation.

Meeting aboard their ship, and led by their famous captain, Hugh Muzac, who will be one of the leaders of the delegation, these NMU'ers discussed the Freeport case.

Norman Dorion, NMUer and executive board member of the N. Y. Committee for Justice in Freeport, told the crew why the demand must be directed to Dewey to investigate Freeport.

"We are sure," said Dorion, "that Dewey, who we know is anti-labor and anti-everything we stand for, is also smart and that he will attempt to stall on this case until just before the primaries and then emerge as a man on a white horse to capture the Negro vote. We do not intend that Dewey shall use the killings of the Fergusons as a political tool to further his political ambitions."

Capt. Mulzac, stressed the role of KKK and its supporters which are his crew as a "shining example of incorporated under the laws of democracy in action."

Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, emphasized that with proper support "a precedent can be established in that this can be the first time that a policeman will be brought to trial and convicted for a crime of this type."

Miss Langston added that "support to the Albany delegation can also mean a complete expose of the KKK and its supporters which are incorporated under the laws of New York State."

Don C. DeSargeant, purser, summed up the discussion when he stated that "at this time every effort has to be extended to fight Jimcrow and to strengthen Negro-white solidarity before we are out on strike.

Tues 4-30-46

The crew sent $127 to the N. Y. committee.

CAPT MULZAC

Klan Revived Here, Issues Threat To Freeport Justice Committee

Daily Worker New York N.Y.

Jules 4-9-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

The Ku Klux Klan, operating as an official body incorporated by the State of New York, is riding again. Assailing the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport as "a bunch of rabble rousers," James H. Hanley, self-styled Grand Kligrapp of the reviving Klan, announced his shady cohorts are taking action against persons seeking just punishment of Patrolman Joseph Romeika who shot to death Pfc. Charles Ferguson, his brother Alfonzo and wounded a third brother, Joseph, a Navy sailor, all Negroes, in Freeport, Feb. 25.

Members of the Knights and Women of Ku Klux Klan, Inc., Hanley warned in a letter to Miss Dorothy Langston, secretary of the Freeport Committee, will attempt to inject themselves into a Freeport protest rally at Manhattan Center, 8:30 tonight.

"We will be there and carefully note all proceedings," the Klansman's letter, mailed in Brooklyn, April 5, declared. "It is most unfortunate that the colored people should line up with a bunch of rabble rousers like those on the list of your speakers."

OPPOSES UNIONS

Scheduled speakers referred to by the Negro-hating Klansman are Rabbi Irving Miller, Rep. Vito Marcantonio, City Councilmen Benjamin J. Davis, Eugene P. Connolly and Michael J. Quill; the Rev. Ben Richardson, Attorney Stanley Faulkner, Assemblyman Hulan Jack and Mrs. Ada B. Jackson.

Klansman Hanley, in his letter, singled out the Communists and Councilman Quill as special targets in his attack on the committee and the meeting. A card enclosed with the letter called on "every American citizen" to urge the government to "abolish labor unions."

Records in the office of Secretary of State Thomas J. Curran, right-hand man of Gov. Dewey, revealed yesterday that the Knights and Women of the Klu Klux Klan, Inc., is operating under state law as a New York County membership organization.

Originally the Alpha Pi Sigma, Inc., the organization changed its name to the Klan and became a corporation under New York law Oct. 30, 1925.

Headquarters and meeting places of the reviving anti-Negro, anti-Jewish, anti-labor are kept pretty much under cover by "Great Kligrapp" Hanley.

The enevelope of his letter to the Freeport Committee, released by Miss Langston to newspapers yesterday, gave Hanley's return address as: "THE WAY, a Journal of Cooperation, 156 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y." But a search all afternoon at that address failed to produce Hanley.

Neither the Klan nor the alleged publication, "The Way," nor Hanley are listed in the office building at that address. The building superintendent at 156 Fifth Ave. said he never head of Hanley or the publication. Inquiries at numerous mailing offices and organization headquarters in the building produced no trace of the man.

BOASTS OF GI AID

Hanley announced, however, in his letter to the Freeport Committee, that a committee of the Klan in Freeport "will investigate this matter (the Ferguson slaying) and report at its next meeting on April 12." He did not reveal where the meeting would be held.

Hanley further boasted in his letter that 47 ex-GIs had joined the Freeport Unit of the Klan since they returned from military service. In Brooklyn, he added, 1,761 had joined the KKK since Jan. 1, 1946.

DAMAGES SOUGHT

"The Ku Klux Klan threat against our committee and its purposes is thinly veiled," Miss Langdon said, commenting on the Hanley letter.

"The very existence of the Ku Klux Klan in New York is in itself sufficient reason for increased activity of such a committee as ours. The Klan threat, and exposure of its anti-labor program will spur our work, and we are sure the people of New York will answer the threat by making our Tuesday rally at Manhattan Center an overflow. Speakers at the meeting will have plenty to say to the members of the Klan who attend."

Meanwhile damage claims have been filed under the Municipalities Law against the Village of Freeport by Attorney Stanley Faulkner in behalf of the two slaim Negroe brothers and the next to kin and two others. Claims were filed for:

- Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of Charles, for false arrest and death of her husband.
- Mrs. Alma Ferguson, mother of the Ferguson brothers, for false arrest and death of her son Alfonzo.
- Richard Ferguson, for false arrest, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment.
- Joseph Ferguson, for false arrest and imprisonment and personal injuries arising from the shooting.

The damage claims were filed with George F. Hasbrouck, village clerk of Freeport.

Knights and Women of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc.
Under Laws of the State of New York

†
"NON SILBA SED ANTHAR"

FOR GOD HOME COUNTRY

LETTERHEAD of the KKK organization which wrote to the Committee for Justice in Freeport. This outfit "warned" the committee not to have Councilman Michael J. Quill as one of their speakers. At right, part of the anti-labor literature issued by the KKK group.

FREE THE SLAVES OF 1946

The United States has more slaves today than 90 years ago.

Millions of our best citizens are not permitted to work where they want to, or with whom they want to, as long as they want to, or what wage they want. If they try to, they get beaten up by the pickets!

Many years ago the slaves were only mistreated if they did not want to work. Now they are beaten if they wish to work.

The slaves of 1946 pay high fees to become slaves, for they cannot work without a card. Then they get bossed around by the walking delegates.

Let every American Citizen urge our government to emancipate these slaves by abolishing labor unions.

Union-made goods cost more.

The consumer is the one who always pays.

The great mass of the common people are always the ones who suffer.

Help Free the Slaves! **Abolish Labor Unions!**

Let Us Set Our Own House In Order!

Investigate the Crime

Daily Worker, New York N.Y.

IT IS MORE than two months since bullets fired by a Freeport, L. I., cop brought death and tragedy to a Negro family, killing the father in a U.S. army uniform.

But actions of New York citizens have shown that Jimcrow justice can be beaten.

Particularly significant is the recent information from the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport that District Attorney Gehrig of Nassau County has reversed himself in the case of Richard Ferguson, young veteran sent to jail Feb. 5 on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Two of the Feguson brothers were killed and a third wounded by patrolman Joseph Romeika, who arrested the four upon complaint of a lunchroom proprietor.

U.S. naval authorities cleared Joseph Ferguson of any illegal conduct. rec'd. 4-10-46

It must be obvious that the dead brothers, Charles and Alfonso, similarly were not guilty of any misconduct.

Yet Gov. Dewey has refused to act on the demand of New York citizens that a special grand jury be named and that Romeika be indicted.

Meanwhile, the Negro-hating Ku Klux Klan, incorporated under the laws of New York state, has injected itself into the case, denouncing the committee and boasting of active KKK units in Freeport and Brooklyn. Why doesn't the Governor investigate this? 4-10-46

The wide and growing support of all sections of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, showing the American Labor Party, behind justice in the Ferguson case has the democratic-minded New Yorkers.

16b 1946 Negroes, by Policemen (New York--Freeport)

Summer Fixin'-Up Can't Wipe Out Freeport's Bloody Stain

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Sat 4-6-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

FREEPORT, N. Y., April 5.—Tiny green buds and pink and white blossoms are quietly signaling the coming of full-bloom spring in Freeport today. And to Freeporters spring is a herald of vacationers, deep-sea fishermen, sportsmen of many varieties, a boom in summer trade. So everybody—almost everybody—is busy painting, cleaning up, shining windows, polishing. People are scrubbing storefronts, scrubbing floors, scrubbing walls, scrubbing everything.

Freeport must be scrubbed well. It must present a spotless, glistening front to tired folks seeking brief escape from city noise, turmoil and Summer heat.

But all the soap and water, the paint and elbow grease, so vigorously applied, can never wash away a two-month old stain of blood, in front of the Freeport Bus Terminal. Nor can it wipe away a tragic memory searing the keen mind of a little five-year-old friend of mine.

KNOWS OF BLOOD

He knows about that blood stain. He talked to me about it. And I felt something heavy deep down inside as he told what he knew in his small high-pitched voice.

"That's my daddy," he said as he brought over a picture of a soldier his grandmother had placed on a dresser table. "A cop shot him and killed him."

Little five-year-old Charles Ferfuson, Jr. looked up at me for an answer. I could find nothing to say. He turned again to the picture and kissed it. His grandmother put it back on the dresser.

I never knew the soldier in the picture. But I know how he died on Feb. 5, just two months ago. He is Pfc. Charles Ferguson, U.S. Army Air Corps, 27-year-old Negro. He was shot to death in a Jimcrow atmosphere, along with his brother Alfonzo, by Freeport Policeman Joseph Romeika early that February morning.

"CLOSED" CASE

The policeman said the Ferguson brothers—Charles, Alfonzo, Joseph and Richard—threatened him with a non-existent gun. An all-white Nassau County grand jury exonerated the cop. District Attorney James N. Gehrig, Freeport Mayor Cyril Ryan and Police Chief Peter Elar said the cop had done his duty. They "closed" the case.

But the case refused to stay "closed." Joseph Ferguson, a Navy sailor, wounded through the arm by the police bullet that killed his brother Alfonzo, was declared by a Navy Board of inquiry to have indulged in no misconduct toward officer Romeika.

Richard Ferguson, an Army vet, sentenced to 100 days in jail on a "disorderly" charge to cover up the slaying, was likewise exonerated on March 27 by Nassau County Judge Henry A. Collins.

The good citizens of Freeport, white and Negro, charge today the cop's alibi is gone. They are working to clean up their village, too—to clean out jimcrow. Joining with citizens all over the state, in the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, these citizens are demanding Gov. Dewey take steps to bring about indictment and trial of the policeman for the wanton slaying.

Sat 4-6-46

CAN'T REVIVE HIM

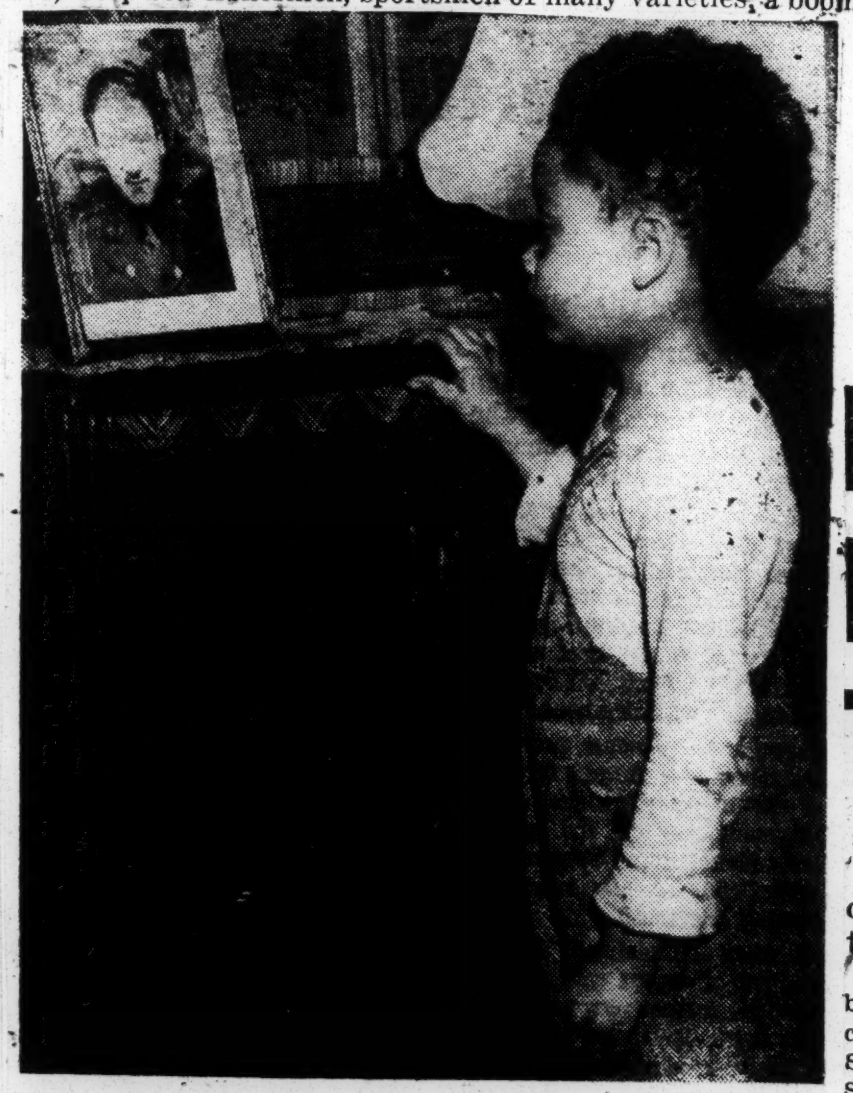
Five-year-old Charles Ferguson, his two brothers, Richard, 3, and Wilfred, 2, know nothing men can do will ever bring back their daddy. Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, the widowed mother, Grandfather Charles Johnson and Grandma Johnson, Mrs. Ferguson's parents, have the parental duty of explaining why daddy will never return.

But Mrs Ferguson, Grandma and Grandpa Johnson, Richard Ferguson and all the neighbors and friends around the Ferguson home, 60 St. Francis St., Roosevelt Village, have entered the biggest fight of their lives, from which there is no turning back. It's the fight against jimcrow, for equal rights for all Americans and democratic justice in Freeport.

Grandpa Johnson, with little Charles on his knee, told of hopes to bring his three grandchildren up "in a world like their father fought the war for."

With more and more white people joining the battle for justice every day, Grandpa Johnson believes "we are going to win this fight soon."

And until it is won all the cleaning and polishing and painting and scrubbing in Freeport will produce little more than a glittering stage setting for dark, cruel tragedy.



Two Months After the Freeport Tragedy:

"A cop killed my daddy," says little five-year-old Charles Ferguson, Jr. as he looks at picture of his soldier-father, brutally slain by a policeman, Feb. 5. A mass meeting in Manhattan Center, Tuesday night, April 9, will demand state action against the cop.

Form New Party In Freeport To End Jimcrow

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Thurs. 2-28-46

Special to the Daily Worker

FREEPORT, L. I., Feb. 27.—The New Village Party was organized here yesterday to combat local Jimcrow conditions which resulted in the Ferguson slayings Feb. 5.

Designated to carry the party's banner in the March election for city trustees are Mrs. Adele G. Smith, housewife, and Richard Saunders, local Negro sign painter.

"The party came into being in response to public clamor over flagrant mishandling of race relations by Freeport officials," Mrs. Amy S. Tusler, 41 W. First St., chairman of the Party, explained.

"Mrs. Smith and Mr. Saunders are running on a program designed to correct these conditions. The platform calls for immediate acceptance of the New York State offer to build the Bennington Park Housing Project. It asks slum clearance. It demands unbiased, responsible civil and police administration, and no more Ferguson cases."

The Negroes killed by Policeman Joseph Romeika were Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and Alfonzo Ferguson, a civilian. Navy Seaman Joseph Ferguson was wounded in the shoulder when the cop, without apparent provocation, fired on the brothers. The cop was whitewashed by Mayor Cyril Ryan, Police Chief Peter Elar, the village trustees, District Attorney James N. Gehrig and the grand jury. 2-28-46

Construction of a community house, youth and child care centers, and supervised playgrounds, is also asked by the New Village Party.

Mrs. Tiesler said the party seeks job security for municipal employes and, for the first time, no discrimination.

JOBS

The New Village Party advocates permitting light industry, long barred from the village, to come to Freeport.

Mass Meeting to Tell Story of Freeport

The story of the Freeport slayings will be told at a mass meeting Monday, 8:30 p.m., in Amity Baptist Church, 164-19 108th Ave., Jamaica, L. I.

Called by the Jamaica Branch of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the meeting will hear discussion of the case by Commander Harry Brown, Proctor, Hopson Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Rev. James R. Moore, pastor of the church; John H. Klugh, president of the Association. Samuel A. Allen. On the support- ing committee are Harold Kline, Interfaith and Interracial Committee; Aperion Manor, Brooklyn, Gov. Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor in the Freeport police Capt. Grant Reynolds, American Veterans Committee; Franklin Williams, NAACP attorney; James Ford, Communist Party, and Dr. John A. Singleton, Jamaica Civic slayings.

Six hundred persons meeting in called on to appoint a special case. Mayor Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor in the Freeport police case.

The meeting, held Tuesday night under auspices of the 2nd AD Com-

Thurs. 2-28-46

AFL Union Asks Dewey Appoint Special Prosecutor

Morris Davis, secretary of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers Local 848, AFL, announced yesterday that the 1100 members of his union had called on Gov. Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor in the Freeport case. In a letter to the Governor, Davis asked that the case of the killer-cop be taken before a special grand jury, including Negro jurors.

600 AT B'KLYN CP MEET DEMAND DEWEY ACT

Mass Meeting Tonight to Tell Story of Freeport

Sat 4-6-46

Tonight at 8:30 p.m. in Amity Baptist Church, 164-19 108th Ave., Jamaica, L. I., the story of the Freeport slayings will be told at a mass meeting of the Jamaica Branch of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the meeting will hear discussion of the case by Commander Harry Brown, Proctor, Hopson Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Rev. James R. Moore, pastor of the church; John H. Klugh, president of the Association. Samuel A. Allen. On the supporting committee are Harold Kline, Interfaith and Interracial Committee; Aperion Manor, Brooklyn, Gov. Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor in the Freeport police case. Mayor Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor in the Freeport police case. Capt. Grant Reynolds, American Veterans Committee; Franklin Williams, NAACP attorney; James Ford, Communist Party, and Dr. John A. Singleton, Jamaica Civic slayings.

Six hundred persons meeting in Aperion Manor, Brooklyn, called on Gov. Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor in the Freeport police case.

The meeting, held Tuesday night under auspices of the 2nd AD Com-

Thurs. 2-28-46

Navy Clears Ferguson Brother of 'Misconduct'; Proves Killer-Cop Lied

The Worker, New York Sun. 3-3-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

An official statement of the U. S. Navy exonerating Ship's Cook Third Class Joseph A. Ferguson of all charges of misconduct when a Freeport cop wounded him in the shoulder and shot to death his brothers, Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson and Alfonzo Ferguson, brands as a brutal injustice the Nassau County grand jury's OK of the slaying.

Freeport Patrolman Joseph Romeika testified he shot Charles to death early Feb. 5, then turned his .38 calibre gun on Joseph, firing and wounding him. The bullet passed through Joseph's shoulder, he said, striking Alfonzo in the head and killing him.

Romeika was "justified" by Freeport Police Chief Peter Elar. And on Feb. 21 he was exonerated of the killings by the Grand Jury and Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig on the excuse that the three Negro brothers and another, Richard Ferguson, were "disorderly," and on the cop's claim Charles threatened him with a non-existent gun.

The Navy command at Lido Beach, where Joseph Ferguson was stationed, immediately placed the wounded sailor under arrest on charges of violating the 96th Article of War, with conduct unbecoming Navy personnel.

PROBE BY NAVY

Sun. 3.3.46

Capt. Sidney S. Bunting, commander at Lido Beach, ordered a thorough investigation of the killings and the sailor's conduct.

The Navy investigation was completed a day before the Grand Jury whitewash. Capt. Bunting ordered Joseph Ferguson released from arrest and restored him to duty without trial.

"The evidence now available clearly shows," declared Capt. Bunting, "that Joseph A. Ferguson, finding himself in a very difficult position, conducted himself in a manner which in no way can be construed as misconduct."

This simple act of justice of the high-ranking Navy officer toward a sorely wounded and harassed Negro in his command, a credit to the service, turns a searching light of truth on the bloody lynch-like affair which has disgraced the name of the Village of Freeport and New York State.

CHALLENGE TO DEWEY

It is a flat challenge to Gov. Dewey, who, while stating he was looking into the case, has so far failed to heed the growing demand other that he supersede District Attorney Gehrig with a special prosecutor and bring the matter before a new Grand Jury of Negro and white citizens.

that brought out in the Navy investigation, challenges the Jimcrow verdict of Nassau County officialdom and the Grand Jury. It is a challenge to every fair-minded American.

Sun 3-3-46

The Grand Jury exonerated Romeika not only in the slaying of Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson, but in the wounding of Joseph as well. And it was directly at Joseph, who the Navy said engaged in no misconduct prior to the shooting or in the presence of the policeman, that Romeika deliberately aimed and fired the second shot.

If Romeika's aim had been better on the second shot, Joseph, too, would be dead. But lucky for Joseph and tragic for Alfonzo, the cop's aim was off a fraction. The bullet passed through Joseph's shoulder and into Alfonzo's brain, killing the latter.

GIVES LIE TO ROMEIKA

Capt. Bunting's statement stands as a refutation of Romeika's testimony at the Freeport Police Court trial of Richard Ferguson. Romeika testified the four Ferguson brothers, including Joseph, shouted at him in chorus: "We will kill you. You ain't going to take us in." This was also refuted on the witness stand by Richard.

Indeed, the record of Richard's trial was so full of errors and smelled so strongly of frame-up that District Attorney Gehrig declined to air it in Supreme Court or argue in its defense, when Richard's attorney, Stanley Faulkner, sought and secured the Negro's release from a 100-day jail sentence for retrial.

Sun. 3-3-46

And further weakening the police-man's case are such witnesses as Mrs. Madeline Moher and Miss Joan Bollmer, white women, who rode to Freeport in a bus with the Fergusons prior to the shooting. They saw the Negroes refused service in the Freeport Bus Terminal Tea Room. But they claim they did not see the men create any disorder, even after they had been Jimcrowed.

The question being asked today by fair-minded citizens of Freeport is: "What is Gov. Dewey waiting for?"

Union Square Rally Thursday Against Freeport Slayings

The Worker, New York, N.Y. Sun 3-3-46

In protest against the Freeport slayings, the New York State Communist Party has called a Union Square demonstration for Thursday, March 7 at 5 p.m.

The mass meeting will demand the removal and trial of patrolman Joseph Romeika, slayer of the Feguson brothers, indemnities to the families of the victims and an immediate investigation by Gov. Dewey.

"The Ferguson brothers were shot down without the slightest provocation because they were Negroes," the Communist Party said in its call for the demonstration.

The Navy's Statement

The Worker New York N.Y.

The evidence now available clearly shows that Joseph A. Ferguson, finding himself in a very difficult position, conducted himself in a manner which in no way can be construed as misconduct.

Sun 3-3-46

Captain Sidney S. Bunting,
United States Navy,
Commanding Officer,
Lido Beach Naval Statilon.

Dewey Ducks Delegation On Ferguson Case

Chicago Defender, Ill. 3-16-46

(Defender New York Bureau)

NEW YORK — A delegation of 150 New Yorkers, led by Councilman Benjamin J. Davis Jr., this week visited Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's offices in Albany and demanded action in the police slaying of two Freeport, Long Island, Negro GIs.

Governor Dewey, reportedly attending the funeral of George Z. Medalie, the man who started Dewey on his political career, did not see the delegation but turned it over to one of his assistant secretaries, Hamilton Gaddes, who was cool to the whole thing.

Councilman Davis told Gaddes that it wasn't very courteous of the Governor not to see the delegation and not even to acknowledge the New York request for a conference.

3-16-46

Ask Immediate Investigation

Accompanying the councilman was John Seaman, member of the executive board of the Transport Workers' Union, who augmented Davis' report by demanding that the Governor immediately investigate the killings, appoint a special prosecutor and impanel a special grand jury to handle the case.

They asked Gaddes to present Dewey with a prepared statement which charged that the Freeport case revealed a "vicious policy of racism, the responsibility for which is shared by the Mayor, the Chief of Police and other officials of Freeport, and by the district attorney of Nassau County and his office."

3-16-46

Dewey's assistant, Gaddes, is a native of Nassau County, where the crime against the Negro vets was committed. Gaddes said that it was a fine county and from what he had read in the papers about the cases, "law and order was carried out in Freeport."

Davis replied to that, "It certainly wasn't law and order when two Negro vets were shot and killed by the Freeport cop."

Questions Dewey's Disinterest

The Councilman also asserted that he thought it strange that Dewey was so interested in prosecuting Democrats in New York State but was disinterested in going after the Republicans of Nassau County who were standing by the patrolman killer, Joseph Romeika.

Gaddes replied that Dewey had made his views known to the Negro people in his stand on the FEPC issue. He ignored the fact that tremendous state-wide pressure had compelled Dewey to liberalize himself on the FEPC

endorsed the delegation and Claudia Jones, of the national committee
89 organizations endorsed the demands of Congressman Adam Clayton Powell and State Assemblyman Hulan Jack that Governor Dewey initiate a special investigation Committee; Charles Collins, international vice president Hotel and Club Employees Union Local 6; Louis Colman, secretary, International Labor Defense; Benjamin J. Davis, labor and Negro leader and Charles Loman, New York City Council; including Dr. Channing Tobias; Rabbi Max Felshin, Radio City Synagogue; Ben State Committee Party.

Sun.

Committee

Members of the executive committee represent over 100 national and local veterans, civic organizations, including Dr. Albert Falb, of the Veterans and State Committee for Justice in Freeport.

The New York Committee was formed as a result of an Emergency Conference held at the Hotel Diplomat Saturday, Feb. 23, at which over 400 representatives of Richardson, associate editor of the

Present Special Committee

National Negro Congress; Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, which or-

16b 1946 Negroes, by Policemen (N. Y.--Freeport)

Whitewash Freeport Killer-Cop

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

By HARRY RAYMOND

MINEOLA, N. Y., Feb. 21.—Policeman Joseph Romeika was exonerated this afternoon by the Nassau Grand Jury for the brutal slaying of Charles Ferguson, Negro GI, his brother Alfonzo, a war veteran, and the wounding of another brother, Joseph, a Navy sailor, in Freeport, Feb. 5.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig, who presented the case to the jury amid the smouldering Ku Klux atmosphere, declared the jury of 18 white men and five white women, all Long Island property owners, found the Freeport cop was "justified" in his action. Fri 2-22-46

The slain Negroes are Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson, U.S. Army Air Corps, and Alfonzo Ferguson, a war veteran. Seaman Third Class Joseph Ferguson, third brother, was wounded in the shoulder by the same police revolver.

They were shot near the Freeport bus station after Gus Scholakis, bus terminal tearoom owner, refused to serve them. Scholakis called patrolman Romeika, charging the Negroes were disorderly.

Immediately after the Grand Jury presented the dismissal order, District Attorney Gehrig told newsmen he had been bombarded with thousands of telegrams from citizens demanding something more than routine treatment of the case.

DEMAND PROSECUTION

Numerous Long Island and New York City delegations visited Gehrig in the county courthouse demanding the arrest, indictment and trial of the policeman for manslaughter.

A mass protest rally in the Hempstead Odd Fellows Hall tonight heard New York City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., demand a new special investigation of the killings.

Shortly before the announcement of the Grand Jury whitewash, a delegation of 18 Negro and white citizens from the Rockaway area visited the district attorney.

Gehrig told the group: **"I have no power to indict. That's the job of the Grand Jury."**

But during more than two weeks that Gehrig had the case in his hands, he used every effort, legal and otherwise, to block a Grand Jury indictment of the policeman.

He said the jury heard 20 witnesses during the process of the so-called investigation. The last witness called was Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family. He was quizzed before the jury for more than an hour.

HITS TRIAL

Faulkner left the jury room shortly after 1 p.m. He was boiling with anger and expressed dissatisfaction with the proceedings.

He told the press later that the fight for justice and retribution would continue.

"The Citizens Committee and the Ferguson family will continue their efforts in trying to find such additional witnesses as there may be and when such evidence becomes available or any other evidence that in their opinion appears material, they will seek to have the matter presented to a Grand Jury sitting at another term of the court," he said.

When the jury handed down the dismissal, the foreman offered no presentment of facts and reasons as is often done in cases involving great public interest. The Ferguson case was such a case.

Asked if policeman Romeika was now free of all responsibility for the killing, Gehrig said:

"The jury found he was justified in doing what he did in the case."

Fri 2-22-46

Ask Special Grand Jury Probe

The Kings County American Labor Party yesterday demanded the appointment of a special Grand Jury of Negro and white citizens and asked a complete investigation of Patrolman Romeika.

"If the facts warrant it," Leo J. Linder, Kings ALP chairman said, "Romeika should be indicted, arrested and tried."

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Councilman Michael J. Quill and Assemblyman Hulan Jack, Harlem Democrat, will be the principal speakers tomorrow (Saturday) at a citywide Emergency Conference protesting the Freeport killings. The conference is called by the Veterans Against Discrimination and United Veterans for Equality at the Hotel Diplomat at 1 p.m.

Communist City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., and Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of the slain GI, Charles Ferguson, have already been announced as speakers.

All trade unions and city organizations are urged to send delegates to help shape future action, the conference call stated.

Jimcrow Hitlerism Strikes in Freeport

Daily Worker

by Charles Loman

(Pinch-hitting for Benjamin Davis)

New York 2-17-46

THE case of the four Ferguson brothers in Freeport, Long Island, is reminiscent of Scottsboro and must arouse the conscience of all America. Four Negro brothers, two of whom were GIs in uniform, and a third, a veteran, protested the refusal of a Jimcrow-minded restaurant manager to give them service. As a result of their demanding only what is their civil right under the laws of the State of New York, they were attacked by one Patrolman Romeika in the fashion of a Nazi Stormtrooper in Hitler Germany.

The cold-blooded shooting brought death to two of the brothers, one who was shot through the heart and the other through the head, and a third wounded in the shoulder. Then, to top it off, the fourth brother was given 100 days in the Nassau County Jail for disorderly conduct. This was not a question of self-defense. None of the brothers was armed. It was a vicious, unprovoked assault upon four innocent Negro citizens. 2-17-46

Killer Romeika was immediately given a whitewash hearing by Police Chief Elar, who ordered a cordon of tear gas and tommy gun-crews to surround the restaurant to intimidate the Negro citizens of Freeport and stifle any expression of protest.

* * *

THESE are serious danger signals to America. Freeport, Long Island, about 40 miles from New York City, sounds the clarion call of alarm. American fascism strikes precisely at the time when the labor movement is engaged in its sharpest struggles for survival, when the deepest unity is needed for victory against the billion dollar trusts. The big monopolists are aware of the new and increasing role played by Negro workers in the labor movement, their militancy on the picket lines and their defiance of the big trusts in unity with their white fellow workers. The lynch attack of Romeika upon the Ferguson brothers is a part of the desperate attempts of reaction to divide the people.

It follows upon a series of similar and related murders of Negro GIs and returned vets in other parts of the country by policemen and sheriffs especially in the South.

The big industrialists and corporations want to pit Negro against white, Jew against Gentile and create disunity in order to beat down wages, unions and working conditions.

2-17-46

JIMCROW, anti-Semitism and all forms of racism are the strongest weapons of fascism. The degenerate ravings of the Bilbos and Eastlands in the filibuster against the FEPC, encouraged by the failure of the Democratic and Republican parties and the Truman Administration to live up to their pledges for a permanent FEPC lends support to and encourages such outrages as Freeport.

Our GIs, both Negro and white, who fought abroad and saved America from Nazi enslavement, are not returning home to tolerate the actions of the Stormtrooper Romeikas, who charged the picket lines at Western Electric, Western Union and Packinghouse, cracking skulls of the workers who man these lines and who shoot to kill innocent Negro citizens.

The polltax bourbon plantation owners of the South, plus the Hoover-duPont big business monopoly combination spell fascism for America unless halted by a united front of the labor movement and all democratic sections of America. Just as the Prussian Junker landowners and the Krupp Thyssen monopolists were the main basis for fascism in Germany, the Romeikas of Freeport are the tools spearheading a reactionary drive.

* * *

A NATIONAL crusade for justice is demanded on this issue. Every democratic-minded American citizen must speak out and denounce this horrible crime and all other attacks upon the Negro people.

Demand the removal and arrest of Patrolman Romeika and his trial for manslaughter.

Demand the release of Richard Ferguson from the Nassau County Jail and indemity for the families of the slain brothers.

Call upon Gov. Dewey in Albany to investigate this outrage. 2-17-46

Call upon Attorney General Tom Clark for a federal investigation of the many assaults and killings of Negro soldiers throughout the nation.

Wire protests to Mayor Cyril Ryan of Freeport, Long Island.

Reverse Decision Against Ferguson

Following the latest development, Faulkner revealed plans to file suit for false arrest and damages in the name of the two brothers, who were union men, with the union with the others when the fatal shooting occurred.

In addition, he revealed that Following argument by Ferguson's attorney, Stanley Faulkner. In addition, he revealed that County Judge Henry R. Collins plans for a complete new investigation of an order that the decision be reconsidered, awaiting results of an complaint dismissed Army investigation to determine whether the service men were killed in the line of duty.

FREEPORT, N.Y. The convic- ordered two of tion of Richard Ferguson, two of whose brothers were shot and killed by a local policeman on Feb. 5, was reversed on Mar. 27, served five days before the fine was repaid. Ferguson with the approval of the prosecu- was paid.

tor, District Attorney James N. Seaman Also Freed

Gehrig Previously, another brother,

Ferguson, lacking a lawyer, was Joseph Ferguson, S/1c, wounded given the extreme penalty for dis- in the shoulder the shooting, was orderly conduct, a $ 00 fine or 100 exonerated of any misconduct by days in jail, only nine hours after his Lido Beach commandant, who ordered him returned to full duty. both brothers. both service men.

Lawyers Ask U.S. Probe in Freeport

By CLAUDIA JONES

Seven prominent attorneys have demanded, in a letter to Attorney General Tom Clark, that he "immediately investigate the Freeport case involving the shooting and wounding of the Ferguson brothers."

Signing the request were Arthur Garfield Hays, general counsel, American Civil Liberties Union; Will Maslow, director of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress; Paul O'Dwyer; Abraham Unger, executive secretary, N. Y. American Lawyers Guild; Osmond K. Fraenkel, National Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Liberties, National Lawyers Guild; Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Stanley Faulkner.

FAULKNER'S WIRE

As this case moved into national prominence Faulkner requested of Governor Dewey that he "be given the opportunity of conferring" with Governor Dewey "in order that a complete picture of the situation may be presented."

Attorney Faulkner's action came following newspaper reports last week, that the New York Governor is conducting his own private investigation into the murder of the Ferguson brothers in Freeport, L. I.

Faulkner's wire to Dewey stated:

"The undersigned has been advised through various newspaper reporters that you are conducting an investigation of the Freeport case which involves the shooting and wounding of the Ferguson brothers. As attorney for the Ferguson family, I respectfully ask to be given the opportunity of conferring with your honor concerning same in order that a complete picture of the situation may be presented."

Sources close to The Worker learned that J. Russell Sprague, Nassau County executive officer and Republican National Committeeman from New York, was in Albany for a brief visit last week. Freeport is in Nassau County and officials of the county are under fire for their failure to take action against police officer Romeika, who shot to death Charles and Alphonse Ferguson and wounded Joseph Ferguson.

Whether Sprague was here specifically on the Freeport case could not be learned. But there is fear that Dewey may be preparing a whitewash of the Nassau County officials. Nassau is known as the most solidly Republican county in the state, if not in the country.

Sprague is one of Dewey's closest political associates and one of the two men who are said to have put him over at the GOP national convention in 1944.

PRESSURE MOUNTS

The heat was being put on Dewey more and more by indignant New York citizens and trade unionists demanding that he supersede District Attorney Gehrig with a special prosecutor and bring the matter before a new Grand Jury of Negro and white citizens.

The Nassau County Grand Jury had exonerated Romeika not only in the slaying of Charles and Alphonse Ferguson but in the wounding of Joseph as well. Joseph A. Ferguson, as reported in last week's Worker, was completely exonerated by the Navy through Capt. Signey S. Bunting, United States Navy Commanding Officer, Lido Beach Station. Capt. Bunting stated that "the evidence now available clearly shows that Joseph A. Ferguson, finding himself in a very difficult position, conducted himself in a manner which in no way can be construed as misconduct."

This official naval statement bolstered the confidence of democracy-minded citizens of Freeport and New York in pressing that full justice be done in this case.

As one step to that end, hundreds of New Yorkers were preparing to leave at this writing in a mass delegation to Gov. Dewey, under the sponsorship of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, to demand that he institute a special Grand Jury investigation of all facts connected with the killings of the Ferguson brothers.

The committee's officers are: Honorary chairman, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.; co-chairmen, Revels Cayton, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, and Paul Rasmussen of the Calvin F. Adams Post of the American Legion; secretary, Dorothy Langston, and treasurer, Henry Geiz, commander of the National Conference of Union Labor Legionnaires.

Among its executive members are: Dr. Channing Tobias; James E[illegible] Allan, president, N. Y. State C[illegible]ference of NAACP branches; R[illegible]bi Max Felshin, Radio City Synago[illegible]; Rev. Ben Richardson; William Grogan, international vice-president, Transport Workers Union, and Charles Collins, vice-president, Hotel and Club Employes Union, Local 6.

The Ferguson Brothers Killing

by Woody Guthrie

(Tune: Streets of Laredo)

Let's stop here and drink us a cup of hot coffee
That Long Island bus was an awful long ride
But we've got to keep your blood warm, our young brother Charles,
Because you've reenlisted for quite a long time.

You've been over the ocean and won a good record,
A Private First Class needs hot coffee the same
As Alonzo or Joseph or just plain old Richard,
We'll all drink a hot cup to each brother's name.

It's nice of the Bus Terminal to have a good Tea Room
Mister Scholakis is the owner, there's his card on the wall;
Let's sit over here and wash down our troubles
And if you know a tall story, my brothers, tell them all.

The waiter shakes his head, wipes his hands on his apron,
He says there's no coffee in all that big urn
In that glass gauge there it looks like several inches
It looks like this Tea Room's got coffee to burn,

We made him a speech in a quiet friendly manner
We didn't want to scare you ladies over there
He called for a cop over his phone on the sly
And the cop come and marched us out through the night air.

The cop said that we had insulted the Joint man
He made us line up with our faces to a wall
We laughed to ourselves as we stood there and listened
To the man of law and order putting in his riot call.

The cop turned around and walked back to young Charlie
Kicked him in the groin and then shot him to the ground
This same bullet went through the brain of Alonzo
And the next bullet laid my brother Joseph down.

My fourth brother Richard was hauled to the station
Bawled out and lectured by the judge on his bench
The judge said the Fergusons were looking for trouble
They lugged Richard off on a hundred day stretch.

This morning two hearses rolled out toward the graveyard,
One hearse had Alonzo, the other took Charles,
Charles' wife, Minnie, and her three boy children
And friends and relatives in some old borrowed cars.

Nobody has told these three little boys yet,
Everybody rides crying and shaking their head,
Nobody knows quite how to make these three boys know
That Jimcrow killed Alonzo, that Charles, too, is dead.

The town that we ride through is not Rankin Mississippi
Nor Bilbo's Jimcrow Burgh of Washington, D. C.,
But it's Greater New York, our most fair-minded city
In all of our big land and streets of the brave.

Who'll tell these three sons that their daddy is gone
After whipping the Fascists and the Nazis to death?
Who'll tell these three sons that Jimcrow coffee
Has killed several thousand the same as their dad?

Army Findings May Stir New Freeport Quiz

The conviction of Richard Ferguson, who was railroaded to jail after a rookie cop shot and killed two of his brothers in Freeport Feb. 5, has been reversed in circumstances which may lead to a complete new investigation.

A startling feature of the reversal is that it was agreed to by District Attorney James N. Gehrig, who prosecuted Ferguson. It was Gehrig who defended the Grand Jury's exoneration of the slayer, Patrolman Joseph Romeika, and who reputedly said "the killings were unquestionably justified."

Peculiar

Another peculiar development occurred in Hempstead, whose mayor, Herbert Mirschel, induced the Hempstead Elks Club to deny the use of its building next Sunday for a mass meeting of Ferguson supporters.

Mirschel told the Elks Club he had information that certain "patriotic groups," which he did not identify, objected to the meeting and would try to break it up, and that he didn't want any trouble. He also said the Grand Jury had absolved the cop and the case was closed, and he was quoted as asking: "Why agitate and maybe provoke a fight?"

Romeika killed the two Negroes, both servicemen, at the Freeport bus terminal about 1:30 a.m. on Feb. 5. Nine hours later Richard appeared before Freeport Police Justice Hilbert R. Johnson on a disorderly conduct charge.

Lacking a lawyer, Richard was summarily convicted and got the limit—a $100 fine or 100 days in jail. He went to jail but was released a week later on payment of the fine.

Ferguson's attorney, Stanley Faulkner, argued the appeal Wednesday before County Judge Henry R. Collins who announced that, with Gehrig's consent, the conviction was reversed, the complaint dismissed, and the fine ordered repaid.

Inquiry

Faulkner is now preparing a suit for false arrest and damages, which will be filed in the names of both Richard and his brother, Seaman 1/c Joseph Ferguson, whom Romeika wounded in the shoulder. Joseph was turned over to Navy authorities at nearby Lido Beach, where he is stationed. After an independent investigation the Lido Beach commandant found that Joseph had not misconducted himself in any way preceding the shooting and restored him to full duty.

Thus two brothers have been cleared of any misconduct and the case heard 20 witnesses and then absolved Romeika and the two other brothers were killed in line of duty. If it finds they acted in self-defense. This finding has been widely attacked as a whitewash.

The Grand Jury to which Gehrig presented the case heard 20 witnesses and then absolved Romeika and the two other brothers were killed in line of duty. If it finds they acted in self-defense. This finding has been widely attacked as a whitewash.

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D. A. Refuses Special Probe In Killings by Freeport Cop

By HARRY RAYMOND

MINEOLA, L. I., Feb. 11.—District Attorney James N. Gehrig gave a flat "no" to a delegation of Nassau County citizens today when they demanded that he take special steps to investigate last week's Freeport police slaying of two Negroes.

He said the case of Policeman Joseph Romeika, Freeport cop who shot the men and was exonerated by Freeport Police Chief Peter Elar would be taken before the Grand Jury Wednesday in a "routine" manner.

"I think a lot of agitation has taken place because of the assumption that the boys were shot because they were colored boys," Gehrig declared.

Mrs. Anna J. Martin, leader of the delegation, said upon leaving the conference at the new courthouse here that further steps would be taken to assure justice in the case.

Seventy-five citizens, white and Negro, made up the delegation.

Mrs. Bradley Smith, of the Freeport Community Council, demanded that Gehrig ascertain why the policeman "shot to kill" and "then walked around and shot again." She told the District Attorney she did not think the matter was "routine" when two lives were involved.

The Rev. William Jones, of the Second Baptist Church, Freeport, said the Fergusons, members of his congregation, had always been "a quiet set of boys."

Gehrig said he could do nothing about the demand of Mrs. Margie Watt of Freeport, another member of the delegation that a special Grand Jury, with both Negro and white members, be impanelled. Mrs. Watt cited the evidence of Mrs. Madeline Moher and Miss Joan Bollmer, who rode into the Freeport Bus Station on the same bus with the Negro brothers the night of the killing.

These women, Mrs. Watt declared, stated the brothers were not "disorderly" as charged. She said the women claimed the Negroes left the Bus Terminal Tea Room after Gus Scholakis, proprietor, had refused to serve them coffee.

Scholakis is the man who called the police, stating the boys were "disorderly."

Gehrig told the delegation that Mrs. Moher and Miss Bollmer, the two surprise witnesses, had been subpoenaed today to appear before the Grand Jury.

Rev. William F. Huston presented a resolution signed by 45 of his parishioners, stating:

"The shooting was all out of proportion with the handling of disorderly conduct."

Rev. Huston demanded the policeman be immediately suspended and the Grand Jury Hearing be laid over until all evidence is prepared.

Gehrig declared he would go before the jury Wednesday. He said he had no power to suspend the cop.

Members of the delegation clashed with Gehrig on this point, stating the Freeport police chief had said he exonerated the cop after the district attorney's office said the policeman was justified in his action.

It was also pointed out that as chief law enforcement officer of the county, Gehrig could have ordered the arrest of the policeman if he saw fit.

The district attorney, while stating he would not attempt to prejudge the case, indulged in a bit of pre-judging, before hearing all witnesses, when he told the delegation: "It is a fact that this boy (Charles Ferguson) said he had a .45 caliber gun in his pocket and reached to his pocket."

He rebuked the delegation for "trying to inject color into the administration of justice" and added: "I'd be against that."

Gehrig insisted there would be no discrimination in the case.

And in an apparent attempt to improve his position with the delegation, he told them he held membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and was "active in an interracial committee in Hempstead."

"There are some features of this case that remind us of the deep South," declared John Lavin, executive secretary of the Nassau Communist Party and member of the delegation.

"I don't see how a policeman would have shot three white boys like that, particularly in uniform," Lavin added. He demanded suspension of the policeman and seizure of his pistol.

The courtroom was electrified when Edward Ferguson, a fifth brother who came here today from Washington, D. C., arose and angrily asked why the policeman had to shoot two more men after he felled Charles.

"I came all the way from Washington to see my brother who is in jail," he stated. "They won't let me see him. I demand to see him."

At this point Mrs. Selma Rose, a neighbor of the Fergusons, leaped to her feet and pointed to the short leather jacket worn by Edward.

"That's the kind of a jacket that Charles wore that night," she shouted. She showed the district attorney by making Edward stand up and turn around that if anyone carried a gun under such a jacket it would be quite obvious to the policeman.

Gehrig announced that Stanley Faulkner, attorney for Richard Ferguson, had served papers for the appeal of Richard's case.

A similar request for special action in the case was placed before Mayor Cyril C. Ryan of Freeport yesterday by another large committee.

Charging a breakdown "of the administration of justice" in this country, the American Labor Party of Nassau demanded that Gov. Dewey intervene in the case.

CP Demands Action On Freeport Deaths

The New York State Board of the Communist Party yesterday issued the following statement on the Freeport slayings:

PFC Charles Ferguson, 27—Killed.

Alfonso Ferguson, 25—Killed

S 3/c Joseph Ferguson, 20—seriously wounded

Vet, Richard Ferguson, 22—jail sentence—100 days.

Is this a war casualty list? NO!

This is the tragic record of one night's shooting by Patrolman Romeika of four young Negro brothers on the night of Feb. 5. Did this happen in Mississippi or Georgia? NO!

This took place about 40 miles from New York City in Freeport, L. I.

The four Ferguson brothers, one on a re-enlistment furlough, entered a bus terminal and ordered coffee. They were denied service by the jimcrow-minded restaurant owner. They protested, but left.

Patrolman Romeika was called by the restaurant manager, who on reaching the scene, caught the brothers outside, lined them up against a wall and proceeded to manhandle them.

PFC Charles Ferguson, seeking to cover himself up, was kicked in the groin and shot through the heart by killer Romeika. Alphonse was shot through the head, dying later, and Joseph Ferguson was wounded in the shoulder.

Patrolman Romeika was completely exonerated after a whitewash hearing by Police Chief Elar, who ordered a cordon of tear gas and tommy gun crews to surround **the restaurant to intimidate the Negro citizens and stifle any expression of protest.**

These facts speak for themselves. The spirit of Hitler is alive in Freeport. The Fascist filibuster tactics of the Bilbos and Eastlands in the U. S. Senate, and the propaganda of Fascist groups are encouraging lynchers and anti-Semites all over America.

This murder springs form the race hatred created by the agents of big business oppositon against the Fair Employment Practice Act. It is encouraged by the big trust magnates who feel that now is the time to kindle race conflicts in order to divide the people, weaken the labor movement, and tighten their economic stranglehold upon the masses of the people.

We protest and denounce this lynch attack upon innocent Negro citizens. The Communist Party calls upon the people of New York State to declare their abhorrence of this bloody deed.

Demand the removal and arrest of Patrolman Romeika, and his trial for manslaughter.

Demand the release of Richard Ferguson from Nassau County jail and indemnity for the family of the slain brothers.

Call upon Governor Dewey to investigate this outrage.

Send your protests to the Mayor of Freeport.

(Signed on Behalf of New York State Board)

BOB THOMPSON
ISRAEL AMTER
BILL NORMAN
BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR.
CHARLES LOMAN

Freeport Killings to Jury

The case of the rookie cop in Freeport who shot three Negro brothers, two fatally, in a squabble early last Tuesday will be presented to the Nassau Grand Jury today. However, District Attorney James N. Gehrig will present the case, and Gehrig is the man whom the American Labor Party in Hempstead had asked Governor Dewey to supersede in this case, because of a reputed declaration that "the investigation will be merely a routine affair" and that "the killings were unquestionably justified."

A committee of 250 indignant Freeport citizens has been formed to demand prosecution of the policeman, Joseph Romeika, who has been on the force only eight months. Romeika's three victims were the Ferguson brothers, Pfc. Charles, 28, and Alfonso, a discharged GI, both of whom he killed, and S/1c Joseph, wounded in the shoulder. A fourth brother, Richard, was "tried" on disorderly conduct charges, convicted and sentenced to 100 days, all within eight hours after the Fergusons scuffled with the cop. It had all started over the refusal of a counterman in the Freeport Bus Terminal to serve the four brothers coffee.

Jail Cop, Davis Asks

HITS SLAYING OF NEGRO GI AND BROTHER

The policeman who killed the Negro soldier and his brother in Freeport, L. I., must be tried for murder, declared Councilman Benjamin J. Davis yesterday.

Davis demanded immediate arrest of Patrolman Joseph Romeika, who shot and killed Private Charles Ferguson and Alfonso Ferguson. He also demanded that Police Chief Peter Elar, who whitewashed the killer, be removed from office, and insisted that Mayor Cyril Ryan be impeached unless he act in the interests of the Negro people and their labor and progressive allies.

The murder took place Tuesday morning in the Terminal Tea Room of the Freeport bus Terminal. A third brother, Seaman Third Class Joseph Fergusson, was seriously wounded.

"The fascist filibuster tactics of the Bilbos and Eastlands in the Senate," said Davis, "have reached New York, and are encouraging lynchers and anti-Semites all over America."

He called upon the Negro people, the labor movement and all anti-fascist New York citizens to protest "this wanton act of fascism." He demanded that the families of the aggrieved men, one of whom died

in the uniform of his country, be compensated.

Court Record Bares Why Cops Rushed Ferguson to Jail

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y. 2-19-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

I have seen the Freeport Police court record of the trial of Richard Ferguson. It throws into naked light the indecent haste with which the court moved to get rid of the last available witness to the bloody events of a few hours before. And it shows why the police had to get the Negro vet out of the way.

Four Ferguson brothers stood lined against a brick wall in Freeport that bloody Tuesday morning, Feb. 5. Two were shot dead. One, wounded, lay secluded in a Navy hospital. That left one surviving on-the-scene witness to the act of Patrolman Joseph Romeika.

Richard Ferguson was that witness. He was haled before Police Judge Hilbert Johnson, before the bodies of his two brothers, Charles, the soldier, and Alfonzo, the veteran, were cold. The 13-page transcript of the trial shows the judge failed even to protect the basic rights of the defendant.

Richard was not advised by the court, according to the record, that he had a right to be represented by counsel. Nor was he warned the law did not require him to testify as a witness in the Police Court.

SCHOLAKIS' TESTIMONY

On the stand Policeman Joseph Romeika, slayer of the Fergusons, was questioned by the Judge. He testified that he seized the four brothers after Gus Scholakis, proprietor of the Bus Terminal Tea Room, said the Negroes "molested" him. Romeika said Scholakis alleged the men broke a window of the Sinclair Coal Co. office 150 feet from the restaurant.

But there was no direct evidence produced in court that the Negroes broke a window. Here's the testimony of Scholakis about the window:

Q. Which window?
A. The one in the coal company.
Q. They knocked it out?
A. Yes, I saw it.
Q. They broke a window?
A. Yes.
Q. All together?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know whether Richard broke a window?
A. Who did it, I don't know. It was about 200 or 300 feet from me.

The cop said the Fergusons approached him. Pfc. Charles Ferguson, first to die, used "profane language," Romeika claimed.

The Judge asked the cop what Richard did.

Q. What did he actually say?
A. Well, I arrested the four for disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace and as I had them against signal box 14, I notified Lt. Dixon that I wanted the station wagon down as I had an arrest. . . . I had the four defendants march back to the Sinclair Coal Co. (Here he lined them up against the wall execution style.)

Romeika testified the four shouted in chorus: "We will kill you. You aren't going to take us in."

But Richard, testifying on the same witness stand, declared he did not recall anyone saying that.

He was asked by Judge Johnson if he remembered the language used.

Q. That they don't like cops?
A. No.
Q. You don't recall any profane language at all?
A. I don't recall what was said.
Q. Was any profane language used? 2-19-46
A. When coming up from the park.
Q. None with the officer?
A. No.
Q. You were very polite to him.
A. No, but we weren't cursing at him. I didn't say a word to him.

Richard also denied he had cursed the restaurant man, Scholakis.

The Judge, however, kept darting questions at Richard, apparently trying to get him to justify the cop's action. But Richard, in a hostile atmosphere and without friends in the court, insisted no disorderly language was used.

Q. You didn't hear any profane language used in the presence of the officer?
A. No.
Q. You want me to believe that if you were within eight feet of your brothers all the time that the police officer is not telling the truth?
A. No, I didn't say that.
Q. You aren't hard of hearing?
A. No.

Judge Johnson called Richard to stand before him. In a manner reminiscent of Mississippi swamp-land Jimcrow jurisprudence, he lectured the young Negro. He said:

"I just want to say this, that as far as I am concerned, I am not going to stand for any rowdyism in this village and I don't intend to put up with it. You fellows going out looking for trouble—they are going to get just what they are looking for. And I want to commend the police officer who can keep trouble away from this village. When you go out looking for trouble you usually find it."

He sentenced Richard, the surviving brother, to 100 days in jail. The County Court will hear an appeal for a new trial of the case.

Dixie Justice has left its bloody, ghastly mark in New York State.

The Ferguson Case

Dear Editor: PM, N.Y.

The Ferguson case, in your issue of Mar. 2, is a story that I will not easily forget, for it is one that could have happened anywhere in the U. S. A., and one that must end with right triumphing over wrong.

That's why I, for one, am going to write to Gov. Dewey and Attorney General Tom C. Clark to press for a special grand jury hearing on this case. I urge everyone else to do the same. Sun. 3-12-46

I don't see how anyone can possibly have a clear conscience after reading that story and doing nothing about it. Sun. 3-12-46

New York. RICHARD FEIN

Grand Jury Gets Case Of Freeport Killer-Cop

Daily Worker New York 2-14-46

Special to the Daily Worker

MINEOLA, L. I., Feb. 13.—The case of the tragic police slaying of a Negro GI and his war veteran brother in Freeport last week went to the Nassau County Grand Jury late today.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig, who flatly turned down a citizens committee demand Monday for a special probe of the killing and said the matter was a "routine" jury case, admitted he would not be able to present all witnesses to the present jury. 2-14-46

Authority of the present Grand Jury ends tonight. A few witnesses were gathered in the new Nassau County Court House at 4:30 p.m., waiting to be called.

But Gehrig declared he could not hope to present the array of witnesses, which is constantly growing, before the present Grand Jury expires. He said he expected to continue the case before a new Grand Jury which will convene Tuesday.

A new witness to the shootings has been discovered, it was revealed. The new witness says that the second shot appeared to have been fired deliberately.

The growing protests of citizens against the killing, demands from throughout the state and nation that policeman Joseph Romeika, the killer, be arrested and tried for the slaying—have served to move the case, despite official opposition, out of the routine legal category.

Romeika was exonerated by Freeport Police Chief Peter Elar in the killing of Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson, Army Air Corps, his brother Alfonzo and wounding of a third brother, Navy Seaman Third Class Joseph Ferguson. They were shot after they had been refused service in the Freeport Bus Terminal Tea Room. The cop charged the brothers were disorderly and pretended to have a gun.

This version was denied by Richard Ferguson, fourth brother at the scene of the shooting. He was sentenced to 100 days in jail on a disorderly conduct charge. At least three other witnesses are ready to refute the cop's testimony. 2-16-46

Gehrig has been ordered by Judge Cortland Johnson to appear in court tomorrow to show cause why a writ of reasonable doubt in the case of Richard Ferguson should not be issued. The hearing is based on the grounds that there may be substantial evidence to showing the conviction wouldn't stand up.

The Freeport citizens committee and other influential groups, ranging from veteran organizations to the Communist Party, are acting to bring aid to the stricken Ferguson faimly, Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of Charles, and her three children—Wilfred, 2; Richard, 3, and Charles, 5.

Answering a demand that he call a special investigation of the killing, Gov. Dewey wired Harlem Congressman Adam C. Powell he would "look into the matter at once."

REPORT DEWEY WILL PROBE FREEPORT, FEAR WHITEWASH

Daily Worker New York 2-14-46 wed 3-6-46

Special to the Daily Worker

ALBANY, March 5.—Gov. Dewey's office is conducting its own private investigation into the murder of the Ferguson brothers in Freeport, L. I., sources close to the governor told the Daily Worker today.

It was learned that J. Russell Sprague, Nassau County executive officer and Republican National Committeeman from New York, was in Albany for a brief visit last week. Freeport is in Nassau County and two men who are said to have put officials of the county are under him over at the GOP national confire for their failure to take action vention in 1944.

against the police officer who shot to death Charles and Alphonse Ferguson and wounded Joseph Ferguson. wed 3-6-46

Whether Sprague was here specifically on the Freeport case could not be learned. But there is fear

protest against the inhumanities perpetrated on my less fortunate discriminated against because of their color. I, too, would fight for the same rights as are enjoyed by the white race. Being white, I enjoy that much freedom from oppression by the majority to which I belong; and, being white, in my own state—makes my blood too, I should be less the human being, if such injustices went unprotested on my part. "I do, then, most vehemently

Clark at Washington, D. C.: "A government is by the people, for the people, of the people." United States Attorney General have been delegated to perform the people's business. You, as the United States Attorney General, have been delegated by the people of our country to see that justice is done to all. "Were I a Negro, I would stand the same risk of being lynched as those who have been recently

Demand Attorney General Act on Freeport Murders

Daily Worker New York.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have just sent the following letter to Attorney General Tom

hanged and shot and spokesman, for immediate action." mon-3-4-46 JAMES E. ROBIN.

A Call to Action on the Freeport Slayings

The Worker New York 2-17-46

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Make your voice heard for justice in Freeport!

Write or wire District Attorney James N. Gehrig, Nassau County Court, Mineola,, N. Y., demanding he act immediately to:

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This outrage must be punished!

No Reason for Freeport Killings Witnesses Say

Daily Worker New York 2-11-46

BY HARRY RAYMOND

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They stated Scholakis, while jimcrowing the Negroes, served coffee meanwhile to four white persons, two of them bus drivers.

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2-11-46

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The case, originally scheduled for the Grand Jury yesterday, will be taken to the jury next Tuesday.

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The Freeport GI Slayings

in a picture story

Exclusive in The Worker

By Harry Raymond and Peter Aprievsky

This is the last picture taken of Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson, U.S. Army Air Corps. This 27-year-old Negro soldier, home on reenlistment furlough, was brutally shot to death in Freeport, L. I., Tuesday, Feb. 5, by Policeman Joseph Romeika, who charged the GI reached for a non-existent .45 calibre gun. Dead from the same police pistol is Alfonzo Ferguson, 25, a brother of Charles and ex-GI. Another brother, Joseph, 20, a Navy sailor, was locked up in the Lido Beach Navy Brig with another police bullet in his shoulder. Richard Ferguson, 22, fourth brother on the scene, protesting innocence, was railroaded to the Nassau County Jail for 100 days on a disorderly charge. Freeport and Nassau County officials said the cop did his "duty." Richard was ordered released on $200 bail last Thursday by Supreme Court Justice Cortland Johnson for review of his case on appeal.

Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of Charles, and her three small children sit grieving for the GI father in a poor little Jimcrow home, 60 St. Francis St., on the outskirts of Roosevelt Village, L. I. The children (left to right) are Charles, Jr., 5, Wilfred, 2, and Richard, 3. They are bright, well-behaved little boys. They have no toys and few other children's necessities enjoyed by most little white boys in the village. Their mother dreams of them growing up in the kind of world their father fought for—a world without Jimcrow and where all have equal opportunity.

(The full picture story of the killings appears on the back page.)

Justice in Freeport

Daily Worker New York 2-15-46

The conscience of America must be aroused.

It must not permit a legal whitewash of policeman Joseph Romeika, who, in the foul atmosphere of race hatred, last week shot to death in Freeport, N. Y., a Negro soldier, a Negro war veteran and wounded a Negro Navy sailor, all brothers.

The brothers were celebrating a family reunion. But Romeika cut it tragically short. He kicked one brother in the groin, shot him dead, walked around the group and deliberately fired again. 2-15-46

Gazing at his handiwork—at the three brothers sprawled on the ground in a bloody heap—the cop sought into his shallow, dark conscience for an alibi. He sought to save his own skin from righteous public wrath and the law.

He said Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson, first victim, threatened to shoot him. But neither Charles nor Alfonzo, the two dead brothers, were armed. Nor did Joseph, the wounded sailor, nor Richard, the fourth brother who escaped the bullets, have a gun.

The only gun was in the blood-stained, guilty hand of the cop. And in a further indecent effort to cover up the horrid deed, Richard was railroaded to jail for 100 days on a disorderly charge.

Demand indemnity for the Ferguson brothers were not investigation. He said the brothers were not killed because of their color. This is not so. family—for Charles Feguson's widow, Minnie, and three small children, Charles Jr., No white soldiers or sailors would be shot nie, and three small children, Charles Jr., down this way. He said the case will go to five, Richard, three, and Wilfred, two. the Grand Jury next Tuesday in a "routine" manner. This is no time for complacency. This is no time to confine our action to whispers in bad things

The people of America must never, never parlor discussions about "how let this human slaughter be covered are getting." up, forgotten or brushed aside by any cold- Things are bad. Very bad. The lynch hearted, bureaucratic, reactionary legal spirit has moved across the Mason-Dixon "routine." line into the heart of New York state.

This is plain, wanton killing! The police- If the slayer of the Fergusons go unman must be arrested, indicted and tried punished we have failed in the struggle for by a jury for his deed. common justice.

Bias against Negroes in Freeport must be ended. The "ghetto" system in the village, with its Cleveland Ave. America must not permit it. must be abolished.

Jimcrow school,

Gov. Dewey must be forced to act. Demand he investigates the outrage. Demand Freeport Mayor Cyril Ryan and Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig flatly refuses to conduct a special his Police Chief Peter Flar suspend and jail the cop.

NEW WITNESSES DAILY

Dewey accepts "no bias" findings in Freeport case

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 7-7-46

ALBANY, N. Y.—Gov. Dewey last week accepted his special investigator's report that there was "no evidence of bias or prejudice" in the Nassau county grand jury trial which freed Joseph Romeika, white policeman, who killed the two Ferguson brothers in Freeport, N. Y., last February.

After the jury found patrolman Romeika was justified in his act, several groups put pressure on the governor to probe what they called the "whitewash".

Lawrence S. Greenbaum, appointed by Dewey to inquire into the legal proceedings in the case, reported he did not think a jury would convict Romeika, who claimed self defense. His report said there was "little evidence to establish that the officer, who thought his life was in danger, would have acted in any different manner if the four men before him had been white and not colored."

INQUIRY IS NEAR END IN FREEPORT KILLINGS

The New York Sunday Mirror
New York, N.Y.

The second and possibly final hearing in an investigation into a policeman's killing of two Negro brothers at Freeport, L. I., will begin at 10:30 A. M. today in the Bar Association Building, 42 West Forty-fourth Street. Lawrence S. Greenbaum, an attorney, who is chairman of the State Board of Social Welfare, is conducting the inquiry at the direction of Governor Dewey. Sun 7-14-46

Six persons, two of whom are Negroes, have been called to testify today. Sol Gelb, counsel to Mr. Greenbaum, said these probably would be the final witnesses, unless new evidence is brought to light.

The proceedings were criticized sharply yesterday by the Socialist Workers party and the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport. Both denounced Mr. Greenbaum for refusing to permit examination of witnesses at the hearings by anyone but Mr. Gelb.

The State Committee of the Socialist Workers party called for public participation in the hearings, permission for outside counsel to examine witnesses, and broadening of the inquiry to include a study of "Jim Crow practices in Nassau County." Governor Dewey directed Mr. Greenbaum to investigate the legal proceedings in the shooting of the brothers, Charles and Alfonso Ferguson, which resulted in the exoneration of Joseph Romeika, the policeman involved. Fri. 7-19-46

Mr. Gelb said today's witnesses would be Patrolman Romeika, Chief Peter Elar and Sergt. Arthur Wulff of the Freeport police; Dr. Theodore Curphey, who performed autopsies on the brothers, and Herman Crummel and Arthur Stephenson, Negroes who witnessed some of the events on the night of the shooting last February.

People & Issues

The Worker
New York, N.Y.
By Benjamin J. Davis
Communist Councilman-at-Large, Borough of Manhattan

AT LONG last, Gov. Dewey has appointed a special investigator to look into the Ferguson case, where two Negro brothers both veterans, Charles and Alfonzo Feguson, were lynched by a cop in Freeport, L. I., and another brother, Richard, was wounded simultaneously by the same cop.

This was undoubtedly one of the most brutal crimes committed against the Negro people in recent years, particularly in the North. That it took place against veterans makes it all the more callous. Indeed, it compares in viciousness with the Ku Klux attack against the Negro veterans, civilians and their families in Columbia, Tenn.

That Dewey felt it necessary to take some sort of action in the case represents an important victory in the fight to secure justice in this case. And justice will not be secured until Joseph Romeika, the guilty cop involved, is tried and given the limit of the law as a killer, until the Ku Klux Klan which has intervened in his behalf is smashed, and until the fascist-like conditions which prevail in Nassau County, New York, are wiped out.

LET NO ONE throw hosannas at Dewey for his belated action. Whatever credit is due should be given to labor and other anti-fascists—and especially to the Negro people—who have been fighting all down the line on this "northern Scottsboro case." The non-partisan group which has been piloting the campaign, is the New York Committee for Justice in the Freeport case, whose headquarters are at 112 E. 19th St., which incidentally deserves all the moral and financial support you can afford.

One had to almost turn the world upside down to get Dewey to move his little finger in the case. There were several delegations to Albany, where Dewey was conveniently out of town every time we arrived. Thousands of mailings took place to individuals and organizations. Hundreds of groups took action in one form or another. Street corner meetings have been going on for five months. Sound trucks were informing the people of the crime and enlisting their support from one end of New York City to another.

Dewel ignored it as long as he could—that is, as long as he figured it wouldn't take any votes from him or the Republican Party. But not even the cocksure Mr. Dewey could face the music if he didn't do something. Dewey wants to be reelected Governor of New York, as a stepping stone to the White House.

THIS ACTION is clearly a victory for mass pressure. It had to be dragged out of Dewey, just as we dragged the state FEPC out of him in 1944. It is essential to recognize this; otherwise, someone may now believe Dewey can be relied upon. How can anyone rely on a reactionary politician who made the center of 1944 presidential campaign constant anti-Semitic attacks on the late Sidney Hillman, outstanding Jewish and trade union leader, and upon Henry Morgenthau, simply because the latter at that time stood for tough treatment of the German Nazis.

If we understand how the partial victory was won in the Freeport case, we will understand that we have to keep on fighting and relying on no one except the independent strength of labor and the people if Romeika is to be finally put behind the bars, and if such fascist crimes against Negroes and other minority groups are to be prevented in New York.

ANY COMMENT upon the Ferguson case would be incomplete without recalling the vanguard role of the Communist Party—particularly the Communists of Nassau County who work under conditions almost as difficult as those in Bilbo Mississippi. Dewey's Republican machine rules Nassau County about as corruptly and dictatorially as Byrnes polltax system rules the black and white masses of South Carolina. The degrading conditions imposed upon Negroes in Nassau and the anti-Semitism which goes unchallenged by the Nassau County authorities would astound the people of New York.

It was the Communist Party which, under great difficulties, first took up this case and brought it to the attention of New York and America. Had it not been for the Communist Party, the heroic Ferguson boys would probably have been two more dead sons of the oppressed Negro people; the lid would not have been pulled from the rotten Jim-crow which exists in New York; and we would not have had the opportunity to bring into action the broad masses and outstanding citizens of all parties who are responsible for this victory. Sun. 7-14-46

The Freeport case is the cause of all progressive and democratic citizens. It will be seen through to the end, and nothing will divert us from a total and complete victory.

No whitewash by the special investigation. No waiting until after the election campaign for a report of the investigation. Take Romeika off the beat in Nassau and put him in the criminal's dock! Outlaw the Klan in New York!

Freeport Group Vows New Fight

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 8-17-46

Score Gov. Dewey's 'Whitewash' Of Case

NEW YORK—"We will spare no one's political hide in making the truth known," said the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport this week as it vowed to continue its fight to wipe away the "whitewash" coating the fatal shooting of the Ferguson brothers.

The statement was a warning to Governor Thomas E. Dewey, who last week, on the strength of a report submitted him by his appointee, Lawrence S. Greenbaum, refused to reopen an investigation into the shooting.

The committee added that organizations representing more than 2,500,000 people are now on record demanding that Patrolman Joseph Romeika who killed the two Negro servicemen Feb. 5 be tried for murder.

Rips Greenbaum Report

Dorothy Langston executive secretary of the committee ripped the report of Greenbaum as a "preconceived whitewash carefully engineered and edited by Thomas E. Dewey." She said:

"Dewey, Greenbaum, Gelb and Gehrig have authored, produced and concluded their little show, but the spectacle fools no one. The part of each will be recognized for what it was. Governor Dewey, wriggling to take off the heat of public indignation; Greenbaum, out of a job as chairman of the State Board of Welfare, ingratiating himself with the chief executive for more political plums; Gelb, a former district attorney, well-versed in covering up the police apparatus, springing to the defense of his colleague, Gehrig; and lastly, Gehrig himself, a labor hating, yelping prosecutor messed up by his own prejudices . . ."

Gehrig Absolved Of Blame

Sol Gelb assisted Greenbaum in his Dewey-directed inquiry into the shooting. District Attorney Gehrig, who had been accused of conducting a bias-ridden case, was completely absolved by the Greenbaum report.

The case, which took the governor five months to act upon was disposed of in a matter of a few hours.

Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family, stated: "The alacrity with which the governor acted convinces me that he never intended to give the Ferguson case a thorough airing."

Attorney Faulkner was immediately backed by the powerful New York Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, which announced that the "guild is convinced that the presentation to the grand jury of the evidence relating to the Ferguson case was not impartial but was accompanied with bias and prejudice."

CIO Charges 'Whitewash'

Harold I. Cammer, attorney for the Congress of Industrial Organizations in New York City, charged the Greenbaum report was a "whitewash," just as the investigation was, and would serve as a model report for Talmadge on the Georgia lynchings."

The Freeport Committee and 16 other organizations walked out of the Greenbaum inquiry July 23 after charging that the proceedings were unfair and dishonest. Greenbaum was charged with not conducting a fair trial in that he refused to allow Faulkner to question witnesses though the hearing had been announced a public one.

Substance of the Greenbaum report was that the grand jury, which failed to indict Romeika, had all the material facts before it; that District Attorney Gehrig fairly and fully presented the case to the grand jury; and that there was no evidence that the policeman, who believed his life was in danger, would have acted differently if the Ferguson brothers had been white instead of Negro.

Freeport Quiz Ruling Protested

New York, N.Y.
P.M.

Councilman Eugene P. Connolly last night sent a telegram to Governor Dewey protesting against the procedure adopted at yesterday's opening session of the special inquiry into the now famous Freeport Ferguson case.

Dewey ordered the special probe on July 6 and appointed Lawrence S. Greenbaum to conduct it, after a Nassau County Grand Jury failed to indict Patrolman Joseph Romeika in the slaying of Charles and Alfonso Ferguson last Feb. 5, and after mass protest by the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport and other groups.

Greenbaum announced at the opening of the hearing that questioning would be conducted solely by Sol Gelb, his aide.

Protesting the procedure, Connolly said in his wire to Dewey:

"Together with representatives of many other organizations, I was not allowed to speak during the hearing. Stanley Faulkner was again refused the right to participate although he is the attorney for the Ferguson family, the petitioners, and for the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport.

Such action tends to suppress vital facts." *Thurs 7-18-46*

He concluded: "The people expect more than a whitewash."

Joseph Ferguson, 21, who will be discharged from the Navy today, and Richard Ferguson told the hearing of the events last Feb. 5 leading up to the slaying of their brothers, Charles and Alfonso, by Romeika.

They told of an altercation in the tea room at the Freeport bus terminal where they were refused coffee, of how they had been stopped by Romeika for questioning in the terminal and of how he had kicked Charles and Joseph. They told of how he had lined them up at gunpoint, their hands raised, of how he had sworn at them and told them they couldn't "come down here trying to kill people," and of how, finally, he had fired at them after Charles had remarked he "might have a .45." *Thurs 7-18-46*

Eight other witnesses were heard, some of whom testified they had been in the tea room, had observed the Ferguson boys there, but had not seen any disturbance.

One witness, Francis Meaney, a Mineola bus driver, nevertheless, testified Charles Ferguson had caused a disturbance, had claimed to have a gun, and had threatened to use it to kill a couple of white men. Meaney also said Charles had removed a stool top, with the apparent intention of striking the proprietor, Constantin Chelakis.

Chelakis told a similar story.

Greenbaum adjourned the hearing until tomorrow.

Governor Probes

The Afro-American

Freeport Murder

Baltimore, Md. Sat.

NEW YORK (NNPA).—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey last Friday appointed Lawrence S. Greenbaum, local attorney and chairman of the State Board of Social Welfare, to inquire into the so-called "Ferguson case" involving the exoneration of a Freeport, L.I., policeman who killed two colored brothers, one a GI, last February.

The action was taken on petition of three Freeport citizens who charged District Attorney James N. Gehrig of Nassau County with improper and unfair handling of the grand jury action that cleared the officer. *7-13-46*

The petition, which asked the Governor to name a special prosecutor to re-open the case, also accused Freeport public officials of prejudice against colored people, and asked that a new grand jury investigate "matters of public peace, public justice and public safety" in the village.

The petitioners were Adele G. Smith, Ruth Hughes and Richard Sanders.

Mr. Greenbaum's appointment authorized him to examine witnesses and "to make such disclosure of evidence as in his judgment may be in the public interest."

Governor's Aide

Paul E. Lockwood, Mr. Dewey's secretary, who announced the appointment in Albany, said Mr. Greenbaum would act as the Governor's personal representative to help him decide what action to take on the petition.

The "Ferguson case" has been the subject of heavy agitation in recent months, particularly by Left Wing groups. Rep. Adam C. Powell Jr. (Dem., N.Y.) referred to it at one protest meeting as "a Northern Scottsboro case."

One of the men killed was a soldier, Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson, 27, and the other, Alfonso Ferguson, 25, was a civilian. *The Afro-American*

Officer's Defense

They were shot near the Freeport Bus Terminal about 2 a.m. on Feb. 5 by Joseph Romeika, a provisional patrolman, while he was attempting to arrest them and two other Ferguson brothers on disorderly conduct charges.

The Fergusons lived at Roosevelt Village, near Freeport.

Patrolman Romeika related that the four men became abusive and threatening, and that Charles made a gesture as if to draw a pistol. The officer fired twice, one bullet killing Charles and the other killing Alfonso, and wounding Joseph, 23. *Baltimore, Md.*

The grand jury which cleared Patrolman Romeika, District Attorney Gehrig told the Governor, gave the case "unusual attention." It heard 22 witnesses, he said, and took 299 pages of testimony before coming to its decision.

NAACP Member

Mr. Greenbaum lives at Mamaroneck, N.Y. A law partner of Morris Ernst, with offices at 285 Madison Ave., he is a member of the NAACP and of the board of visitors of Harlem Valley State Hospital. *Sat. 7-13-46*

In 1936, he conducted for Gov. Herbert E. Lehman an investigation of alleged anti-colored activities at the State Training School for Girls near Hudson.

FREEPORT HEARING HELD 'WHITEWASH'

Times

Most of Audience Walks Out as State Inquiry on Slaying of Two Negroes Closes

New York, N.Y.

Wed 7-24-46

The final session of a State hearing on the killing of two Negro brothers by a Freeport, L. I., policeman was held yesterday after most of the audience had walked out on the proceedings in protest over the limited nature of the inquiry being conducted by Lawrence S. Greenbaum in behalf of Governor Dewey. Mr. Greenbaum will report later his findings on the case.

The exodus was led by Stanley Faulkner, counsel for the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport; Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the committee, and Harold Cammer, who said he represented the New York State and New York City councils of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. All three had protested against limiting the inquiry to questions of whether the policeman had acted improperly, aind whether District Attorney James N. Gehrig had been lax in presenting the case before the Nassau County Grand Jury, which refused to find an indictment.

Within these limitations, Miss Langston said, Mr. Greenbaum's investigation amounted simply to a review of the grand jury proceedings, and a "whitewash" of Mr. Gehrig and the policeman Joseph Romeika.

Disagreement on "Whitewash"

Ruth Hughes, one of three Freeport residents who filed a petition requesting the inquiry and demanding that Governor Dewey supersede Mr. Gehrig, said she did not look upon the hearing as a "whitewash," and defended Mr. Greenbaum's handling of the present inquiry. But she said that what she and her associates had wanted included a disclosure of racial relations in Nassau County. She expressed the hope that such an inquiry, going into the entire question of Negro conditions in the county, might still be held, and Mr. Greenbaum indicated his agreement. *Wed 7-25-46*

Mr. Faulkner declared that since he was not to be permitted to question witnesses directly, he would not "lend an air of validity" to the proceedings by remaining. He walked out, and about fifty persons followed him. A meeting then was held in the Hotel Diplomat, not far from the Bar Association Building at 42 West Forty-fourth Street, where the hearing was in progress. From the meeting a telegram was sent to Governor Dewey, denouncing "the entire invsetigation" and demanding the superseding of Mr. Gehrig.

Mr. Gehrig was one of four witnesses called yesterday by Sol Gelb, counsel to Mr. Greenbaum. While Mr. Gelb insisted on doing all the direct questioning, he relayed to the witnesses most of the questions suggested by Milton Paulson of the New York City Chapter, National Lawyers Guild, and Franklin H. Williams, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who remained through the hearing.

The first three witnesses were George E. Richter and Fred Albrecht of Roosevelt, L. I., who had seen some of the events surrounding the shooting from a bus parked a considerable distance away, and Charles S. Balazs of Lynbrook, L. I., who said he had been standing about seventy feet away when the shots were fired.

Gehrig Reviews Case

Mr. Gehrig said he had sent an assistant to the scene at the Freeport bus terminal, where Charles and Alfonso Ferguson were killed and their brother, Joseph Ferguson, was wounded by the bullet that killed Alfonso. Richard Ferguson, a fourth brother who was there, was not injured, but was arrested and found guilty of disorderly conduct, for which a penalty of 100 days in jail or a fine of $100 was imposed. This conviction was upset on appeal, and Mr. Gehrig said he consented to the reversal in view of the unsatisfactory evidence.

At the instance of Mr. Paulson, Mr. Gehrig was asked whether he had, before the grand jury, asked a woman witness whether she was a union member, and then shown that she was a CIO member.

"Yes," said Mr. Gehrig, "because it was very evident that the whole thing was being agitated in Freeport by the Communist party."

Mr. Gehrig said the witness was brought to him by Mr. Faulkner, and her testimony that the Ferguson brothers had been behaving in orderly fashion conflicted with nearly all the other testimony, including that of Richard and Joseph Ferguson.

Mr. Gehrig said he had told Mr. Faulkner the question of color did not concern him, and that "the evidence would be presented to the grand jury, and if he [Romeika] were guilty he'd be indicted; but merely because these men were colored was no reason why Romeika should be indicted for it if he wasn't guilty." *Wed 7-25-46*

Mr. Gehrig said there were no Negroes on the grand jury panel drawn up for this year by the Nassau County board of four Supreme Court justices and one County Court judge, so that no grand jury could be convened this year that would include Negroes. There are Negroes on trial juries, however, he said, and he has a Negro assistant on his staff.

Freeport Officer Admits

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Ferguson Bros. Unarmed

Sat. 7-27-46

NEW YORK—Joseph Romeika, 29, a white provisional policeman of Freeport, L.I., against whom the Nassau County grand jury refused to bring charges for killing two and wounding one of four Ferguson brothers, testified last Friday that they were not armed, and admitted lining them up against a wall before shooting.

He made the admissions to Sol Gelb, counsel for Lawrence S. Greenbaum, who is conducting an investigation of the case on behalf of Governor Dewey, at the Association of the Bar of New York City, 42 W. 44th St.

While the officer's testimony purported to proved that he killed the two brothers and wounded a third in self-defense, he made the pertinent admissions during cross-examination by Mr. Gelb as follows:

No Gun Found

Mr. Gelb: "Did you find a gun on Charles Ferguson after you shot him?"

The officer: "No, sir."

Mr. Gelb: "Did the other Charles's brothers) have a gun?

The officer: "No, sir."

Mr. Gelb: "They were moving forward as if to go for you?"

Describes Shooting

The officers: "That's right. I shot Charles when he was reaching over for his gun. I shot Alfonso when he jumped for my gun."

Mr. Gelb: "Did you have intentions to kill?"

The officer: "No, sir."

Quotes Cafe Owner

Romeika testified that Constantin Cholakis, owner of Bus Terminal tea room, ran up to him near the terminal about 1:30 a.m. last Feb. 5 and reported that four colored men had just molested him.

He quoted Cholakis as saying, "one threatened to kill him with a .45 he said he had in his pocket," after molesting him when the brothers were told there was no coffee (which they ordered) left.

The officer continued: "I flashed my light inside the Sinclair Coal Company (where Cholakis said the brothers went after leaving him, breaking one of the company's windows), when four colored men approached me and said:

Admits Capone Style

"We're not afraid of you. We don't like no white cop!" It was then, the officer testified, that "after lining them up against the wall, that the four came at him, 'using profane language.'"

Earlier in his testimony, the officer said, when the four brothers came at him: "I kicked one. I shoved another, and drew my revolver with my right hand. They came at me with their fists.

"I told them they were under arrest. Charles said, 'I got a .45 in my pocket and I'll kill you.' I told them to keep their hands up.

"Charles reached down fast for a rear pocket. Alfonso jumped for my gun. I shot Charles first and then I shot at Alfonso."

Herman Crummel, a friend of the brothers, who came along when they were lined up, and was ordered to stand with them, testified that Charles Ferguson said "he had a .45, too."

"Charles dropped his hand and reached for his back pocket," Crummel said. "That's when the cop shot him."

Joseph Ferguson, a discharged Navy seaman, who was wounded in the shoulder by the officer, testifying on July 17, quoted his borther Charles as saying, "I might have a .45," before the officer fired.

Joseph said he and his brothers walked in pairs as they approached a coal shed near the terminal on their way to board a bus back to their home in Roosevelt.

He testified that Charles and Alfonso were some 20 feet ahead and he and Richard were behind. The officer stopped Charles and Alfonso.

"When we came up to them," Joseph said, "Charles was demanding to know why he was being arrested. The cop said something about us threatening to kill somebody." The order to line up against the wall followed.

Joseph testified that the officer "kicked Charles in the groin, and then kicked me in the hip, saying, 'you can't come down here threatening to kill people.' Charles asked him again why we were being arrested."

He added that curses were exchanged between the officer and Charles and the shooting followed.

Dr. Theodore J. Curphey, chief medical examiner of Nassau County, testified that an autopsy showed that Charles had .2% of alcohol in his brain. Anything above .15%, he added, puts a person under the influence of alcohol, according to the National Safety Council.

Warn Against Whitewash in Freeport Probe

By Claudia Jones

The Worker New York, N.Y.

"Governor Dewey has finally been forced to act."

That's what is being said up in the Harlem community in the last few days on the Ferguson case.

These typical "man on the street" reactions instinctively recognize that it was the mass people's protest against the police murder of the Ferguson Negro brothers that finally forced Dewey, last Friday, to appoint Lawrence S. Greenbaum, chairman of the State Social Welfare Board as investigator. Sun. 7-14-46

GEHRIG

Greenbaum's job is to probe the murder of Charles and Alphonso Ferguson, Negro soldiers, the wounding of Joseph, a Navy sailor, and the false imprisonment of another brother, Richard, on the night of Feb. 5, by Patrolman Joseph Romeika, in Freeport, L. I.

As such, it is a partial victory—a tribute to mass struggle. But the fight is not yet over. New mass pressure will be needed to guarantee that the probe is impartial and speedy.

★

IT IS LIKEWISE a victory for the initiative of the Communist Party. Just ask yourself: Where would the Ferguson family be were it not for the fact that the Communist Party of Nassau and the Daily Worker took up this case the day following the crime? The answer is obvious. Charles and Alphonso Ferguson would have just been another case of two dead Negroes; the Jimcrow big business rulers of Freeport, L. I., who confine the Negro population to Jimcrow schools, segregated homes, restricted eating places, would have had just one more victory to gloat about. Their divisive agents, the Ku Klux Klan, anti-Semitic and anti-Negro groups, would have been able to continue unchallenged in Freeport.

But the Communist Party and the Daily Worker, exposed lynch justice, enlisted civic, religious, labor, veterans, youth and peoples organizations, spearheaded by the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, the Long Island Conference for Human Rights, and the original Freeport Committee.

VICTORIES INCLUDE: 1) Exoneration of Charles Ferguson of any "disorderly" guilt by the Army board, and granting of a full Army pension to his wife and three small kids; 2) exoneration of Joseph Ferguson by the Navy; 3) freeing of Richard Ferguson on a railroaded frameup charge and fine by the Nassau County court.

These decisions give the lie to the Nassau County Grand Jury whitewash of Patrolman Joseph Romeika, killer of the Ferguson brothers, who still walks scot-free. These decisions confirm this paper's estimate that it was the Jimcrow conditions and anti-Negro police who shoot Negroes first and ask questions afterwards that were responsible for the Freeport crime. It was on the basis of these conditions that Dewey should have acted the day following the crime and not five months later.

★

AT THIS WRITING, according to **Newsday,** Hempstead daily newspaper, state investigator Greenbaum is reported clearing his desk of all personal matters to begin the probe. "I haven't been in touch with District Attorney James N. Gehrig yet," Greenbaum told **Newsday,** "but intend to start work in a few days." Also quoted by **Newsday** is Freeport's Mayor Cyril S. Ryan, who states he has a "clear conscience" and "we welcome any action on the Governor's part." Gehrig's office, too, **Newsday** states, announces that Greenbaum is "welcome to any records needed in the probe."

The **Newsday** article likewise emphasized that the "KKK has been dragged back into the case" and quotes Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the committee, who refutes the DA's statement that the Klan was not on the move in Freeport, pointing to 1) the widely-publicized threatening Klan letter sent to her committee, and the removal of Horace A. Demarest, former Queens Motor Vehicle Commissioner and leading GOP figure by the state administration when it was exposed that he was one of the original Klan incorporators.

Significantly, **Newsday** reprints photostatic copies of a Klan letter it itself received with the appropriate caption, "Ain't No Such Thing—Said Gehrig." Sun. 7-14-46

Gehrig has aleady stated he was chiefly responsible for the Dewey probe. This statement by the chief whitewasher of Romeika emphasizes the need for alert mass pressure to guarantee there is no whitewash.

This the people can do by letting both Dewey and Greenbaum know that they expect: 1) a public hearing; 2) a rapid report of the facts based on testimony from people's witnesses; 3) that Romeika be brought to justice for his crime.

Spectators Quit Freeport 'Hearing' in Mass Protest

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Wed 7-24-46

By John Hudson Jones

Several score spectators, led by Attorney Stanley Faulkner and Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, yesterday walked out of Gov. Dewey's "planned" Freeport-Ferguson case hearings in protest against the callous and vicious methods used by the Governor's special investigator, Lawrence S. Greenbaum and his assistant Sol Gelb. Wed 7-24-46

At the beginning of the hearing Greenbaum and Gelb immediately began refusing Faulkner the right to put specific questions to witnesses. The same tactics were used against Milton Paulson, National Lawyers Guild, and Frank Williams, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. When questions were allowed they were "screened" through Gelb who actually put the question to the witness.

After failing in several attempts to put relevant questions to the witnesses, Faulkner stood up and denounced Greenbaum's "prejudiced handling" of the procedure and declared that he **"refused to continue to give the hearing further validity by listening to an obviously calculated whitewash."**

At this time Miss Langston stood up and asked Greenbaum if he intended to continue with his present methods. Greenbaum answered by threatening to have her ejected from the room.

Wed 7-24-46

DENOUNCES "HEARING"

She then turned to the spectators and denounced **"Greenbaum, Gelb, and Dewey who are cynically playing with the death of two Negroes service men"** and who are **"trying to make political capital out of this heinous crime against the Negro people."** Declaring that she had had enough" Miss Langston began leaving the room and asked all those who felt as she did to do likewise from the room.

More than three-quarters of the spectators left in anger.

In the corridor of the Bar Association at 42 W. 44 St. where the hearings were held, the people who left expressed shock at Greenbaum's actions. Soon they got together with Miss Langston for an emergency meeting at the nearby Hotel Diplomat.

This meeting was attended by fifty-seven persons representing 17 organizations. Speakers blasted the hearing and were unanimous in agreement that further and more vigorous mass action should be taken to force Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor and to re-open the case.

A telegram was sent to Governor Dewey charging that the hearings were "unfair, unjust and dishonest."

It condemned the entire investigation and demanded that Dewey supersede James N. Gehrig, Nassau County District Attorney, and appoint a special prosecutor.

The hearing was adjourned, and to prejudice the jury by asking one nesses." Wed 7-24-46 Madeline Moher if The hearing was adjourned, and of the witnesses, Madeline Moher if er of the CIO. Greenbaum said that after sufficient study he would make known d on and forced Paulson insisted on baum continuing to overrule questions that were put to witnesses by Greenbaum to permit ermit him to ask his findings to Governor Dewey. Gehrig why he did this. Gehrig why he did t **y obvious that the CIO, and the Party were agitat- I wanted to ascer- ity of these wit-**

special prosecutor. After the mass walkout, the hearing continued, with Greenbaum said he was a member of Paulson and Williams.

The last witness called by Gelb was James N. Gehrig, District Attorney of Nassau County. During the Grand Jury hearing just after the shooting Gehrig had attempted to obtain the credibility

Reveal Freeport Whitewasher Is In on Dewey 'Investigation'

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Wed. 7-10-46

By Claudia Jones

Something fishy in Governor Dewey's order to probe the Freeport killings of two Negroes os coming to light with the disclosure tha the same Nassau County District Attorney who was responsible for the whitewash of the policeman killer arranged to probe with the governor.

The probe was ordered by Dewey last Friday, after nearly six months of pressure, when he appointed Lawrence S. Greenbaum, chairman of the State Social Welfare Board, as investigator. This is a signal victory for the Negro and white people of New York, for the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport and its more than 100 associate organizations and for the Communist Party and its press. The fight of these groups finally forced Dewey to act.

GEHRIG

The kind of investigation which Dewey has in mind, apparently, is tipped off by two facts:

First, the story in the Freeport, L. I., **Newsday,** which revealed that District Attorney Gehrig asked for the investigation. The second is Gehrig's statement to Dewey, which appeared in **Newsday,** that:

"Many individuals and organizations have interested themselves in the Ferguson case. Nevertheless no additional evidence affecting the case has ever come to my attention; nor have any circumstances developed since the action of the Grand Jury which would be likely to change the results reached by that body."

Does this imply that the state-sponsored probe will be a bald attempt to take the heat off the state administration, Gov. Dewey himself and D. A. Gehrig?

The answer seems to be given out of Gehrig's own letter to Dewey when he wrote:

"Because a few organizations which have interested themselves in the case for a variety of motives have injected unfortunate racial implications into this matter, I believe it would be highly desirable to have competent and relevant testimony developed publicly."

What Gehrig means by the "unfortunate racial implications" is, of course, in reply to the Freeport "rumors" that the case served to revive the Ku Klux Klan: "I find no factual basis of any revival of the Ku Klux Klan in Nassau County." This, despite the fact that in April the Klan in New York State sent a threatening letter to Miss Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, and on April 12 boasted of its reorganization in Freeport. This—despite the fact that the governor received photostatic copies of the Klan threat and its incorporation under New York State laws. Gehrig may not "find" any factual basis, but New Yorkers know the revelation by a newspaperman that Horace A. Demarest, leading Republican and Queens Motor Vehicle Commissioner, was one of the original incorporators that so embarrassed the state administration that it was forced to fire him.

This all seems to tip-off the intended direction of the state-sponsored Dewey probe. To say this is not to imply that a people's victory has not been won. But now the people must be alert to see that the probe is:

(1) Truly a public hearing.

(2) That the investigation proceeds rapidly and is reported out immediately. Wed. 7-10-46

(3) That no illusions should exist that the Ferguson case is over. It will only be over when Romeika is brought to justice and when lynch justice and the pro-fascist forces who stimulate it are fully exposed and crushed.

Freeport Probe HidesFacts

PROTEST DENIAL OF RIGHT TO CROSS-EXAMINATION

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Fri. 7-19-46

A storm of protests to Gov. Dewey was growing yesterday asserting Lawrence S. Greenbaum, the governor's special investigator, was suppressing vital evidence in the investigation of the Feb. 5 Freeport police slaying of Charles Ferguson, a Negro GI, and his brother Alfonzo.

Greenbaum and his aide, former Manhattan assistant attorney Sol Gelb, meanwhile announced continuation of the hearing on the case to this morning at 10:30 in a small chamber of the Bar Association Building, 42 W. 44 St.

They said they would hear testimony from Patrolman Joseph Romeika, Freeport cop who shot to death the two brothers and wounded a third, Joseph, a Navy sailor who was honorably discharged from the service yesterday.

Heading the long list of persons declaring dissatisfaction with the conduct of Wednesday's hearing session was Miss Dorothy Langston, secretary of the N. Y. Committee for Justice in Freeport.

HOSTILE TO WITNESSES

She charged Greenbaum and Gelb were **"hostile to witneses whose testimony confirms that the Ferguson brothers in no wise acted provocatively before they were shot. . . ."**

The Freeport Committee and other labor and civic groups were reported to have sent urgent telegrams to Gov. Dewey criticizing procedure of the investigation.

Joining the protest were City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Rabbi Max Felshin of Radio City Free Synagogue; Lionel Barrow, National Association for Advancement of Colored People and Revels Cayton, National Negro Congress.

They called on the Governor to act against what they called "a buildup for a whitewash." The messages asked that Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family, be permitted to crossexamine witnesses during the public hearing.

DENY CROSSEXAMINATION

The right to quiz witnesses was denied Faulkner by Greenbaum Wednesday. Faulkner charged Gelb had not got down to the business of seeking the culprit in the case, Patrolman Romeika.

Saul Mills, secretary of the City CIO Council, and Charles Klare, CIO veterans director, said they had sent protests to the Governor against apparent attempts to uphold Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig's exoneration of the killer-cop.

Others joining the protest were William Grogan, international vice-president of the CIO Transport Workers Union; Louis Coleman, Civil Rights Congress and officers of Local 6, AFL Hotel and Club Employes Union.

Also Manhattan Chapter 3, American Veterans Committee; Cyril Stephens, Central Harlem Civic Council; the Japanese American Committee for Democracy, the National Council for African Affairs and American Youth for Democracy.

The Freeport Committee issued an appeal to all persons who had previously united in the demand for a probe of the Freeport case. The appeal urged they let the Governor know at once their dissatisfaction over the weak manner in which Greenbaum and Gelb, his deputies, are conducting the investigation.

The Veterans Commission of the New York State Communist Party charged Lawrence Greenbaum, Gov. Dewey's special investigator in the Freeport case, "is more interested in Dewey's election campaign than with justice."

The Communist veterans asserted Greenbaum and his assistant, Sol Gelm, are glossing over the facts of the death of the Ferguson brothers by their line of questioning of witnesses at the Bar Association hearing. Fri. 7-19-46

They demanded that Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family, be permitted to cros-examine witnesses.

A similar demand was made on the Governor by Mildred G. Mayne, assistant director of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Maritime Union.

Freeport Killer Cop Boasts of Deed

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y. Sat 7-20-46

By Harry Raymond

A burly six-foot policeman boasted from the witness stand yesterday how he kicked Charles Ferguson, Negro GI, shoved the latter's brother, Alfonzo, and then shot the two dead near the Freeport bus terminal Feb. 5.

Patrolman Joseph Romeika, the killer, was chief witness at the second public state hearing in an investigation of the slaying in the Bar Association building, 42 W. 44 St.

A former Pennsylvania Railroad cop and one-time Burns detective, Romeika said the dead Negroes and two other brothers, Navy Seaman Joseph Ferguson and war veteran Richard Ferguson, "abused" him with "profane language" and were "disorderly." He said Charles "threatened" him with a non-existent .45 pistol.

Romeika argued these alleged incidents justified his killing of the two and wounding of Joseph Ferguson in the arm.

AIMED SHOTS

The cop's claim that he fired the shots upward from elbow height without aim as the Negroes "came at" him was refuted by Dr. Theodore J. Curphy, Garden City Medical Examiner. Dr. Curphy testified an autopsy showed Charles Ferguson was killed by a bullet high in the chest that took a downward course. The other bullet struck Alfonso over the left eye, 51 inches from the ground, and also took a downward course.

Sat. 7-20-46

Herman Crummell, a Negro and eyewitness, testified the policeman raised his arm to shoulder height, deliberately aimed and fired.

Crummell, who was lined up against a wall with the Fergusons with his hands in the air, said Romeika fired after Charles Ferguson said he "might have a .45" and dropped his hand to his side.

DIFFERENT STORY

Another witness, Arthur Stevenson, a Negro junkyard worker, saw he killing from a bus window. He old a different story.

"I saw the officer shoot them," Stevenson said. "He told those boys, 'Stick them up and keep them up or I'm going to blast you.'"

Q. After he shot the first boy what did you see? A. He then turned and shot the other.

Q. Did you see the boys do anything? A. No.

The questions were asked by Sol Gelb, assistant to Lawrence S. Greenbaum, special investigator appointed by Gov. Dewey.

Greenbaum, assailed during the first hearing for failure to fully develop testimony, reluctantly permitted Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family, to suggest a line of questioning of yesterday's witnesses.

The only damaging evidence against the killer-cop during the session was elicited through constant prodding of Gelb by Faulkner. Faulkner, however, was denied the right to personally cross-examine witnesses.

Hearings on the case were ordered by the Governor after five months constant demands for action by the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport and other influential organizations.

Stevenson told how he sat frozen to his bus seat watching Romeika pump bullets into the Negro youths. "He (Romeika) shot the little one when he had his hands up," Stevenson testified, referring to the killing of Alfonzo Ferguson. "The little one dropped his hands. Then he put them up again."

"Did you see him (Alfonzo) do anything when his hands were up?" Stevenson was asked. He replied: "I did not."

Romeika ordered the Fergusons up against the death wall after Gus Scholakis, bus terminal tearoom manager, said they were "disorderly" and had threatened him. Richard Ferguson, a surviving brother, testified earlier Charles got into a sharp argument with Scholakis when the latter refused to serve them coffee. Other witnesses testified there was coffee in the urn when the brothers came into the restaurant.

Romeika testified he shot at Alfonzo Ferguson when the latter rushed at him to take his gun. But it was Seaman Joseph Ferguson who was hit by the second bullet. This bullet went through Joseph's arm and struck Alfonzo, who was behind Joseph.

OTHER WITNESSES

Other witnesses were Freeport Police Chief Peter Elar and Freeport Police Sergeant Arthur L. Wullf. They told of being called to the scene of the killing. Elar later exonerated Romeika, stating he did his duty.

Romeika was also whitewashed by a grand jury after hearings conducted by Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig.

Faulkner repeated his earlier criticism of Greenbaum's and Gelb's conduct of the investigation, charging it was not aimed at bringing out the criminal guilt of the policeman.

Sat. 7-20-46

Frank H. Williams, attorney of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, joined with Faulkner, stating the hearings were "little more than a public review of the grand jury minutes and the grand jury hearing."

Williams demanded the investigators probe the basic cause of the Freeport trouble, citing discrimination against Negroes, a segregated elementary school, revival of the Ku Klux Klan and failure to give Negroes a voice in shaping ideals and life in Freeport.

The hearing was ordered continued next Tuesday morning at 10:30.

Freeport Hearing Gets Charge

Daily Worker New York, N. Y.
Thurs 7-18-46

Dewey Aides Seek Whitewash

By Harry Raymond

Charges of "building up a whitewash" and "failure to fuly develop testimony" were publicly heaped on Lawrence S. Greenbaum, Gov. Dewey's special investigator, and his assistant, Sol Gelb, yesterday as they opened state hearings in the Freeport police slaying of Pfc. Charles Ferguson and his brother Alfonzo.

Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the families of the dead Negroes, said Gelb's method of questioning nine witnesses was directed toward exonerating Patrolman Joseph Romeika, who shot down the soldier and his brother in cold blood near the Freeport Bus Terminal Feb. 5.

Attorneys for the CIO, Lawyers Guild, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, representatives of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport and other powerful groups dramatically interrupted the hearing several times with demands that Gelb act to get to the bottom of the killings.

Richard Ferguson, brother of the slain Negroes, told how Romeika kicked Charles in the groin, shot him down with a service revolver and then fired at Joseph Ferguson, another brother and Navy man, wounding him in the arm for "no good reason." The bullet passed through Joseph's arm and killed Alfonso.

But Gelb raised his voice, questioning Richard in a hostile manner. He prodded the witness with questions about profane language alleged to have been hurled by Charles at Gus Scholakis, Bus Station Tea Room manager. Scholakis had refused to serve the brothers coffee the night of the killing. An argument ensued with Charles charging discrimination. Scholakis called Patrolman Romeika.

Gelb quizzed Richard and also Joseph Ferguson at great length about alleged disorderliness of the group. But he failed to expand the testimony to include the fact that Army and Navy boards had exonerated Charles and Joseph of any misconduct in or around the bus station.

Thurs 7-18-46

Gelb brought out evidence that Richard Ferguson was arrested after the killing, hailed into police court and sentenced to 100 days in jail for disorderly conduct. Gelb skipped over the fact that Richard's "disorderly" charge was later thrown out by a higher court on appeal.

Scholakis testified in an excited manner that he told Romeika the four Negroes had threatened to kill him. His eyesight was so bad he had to use a special glass to identify a picture of the bus terminal. But, according to his testimony, there was nothing he did not see at the time of the killing.

Scholakis testified one of the Negroes put a fist through a window of a coal office building near the terminal. Later he said he "thought" they broke the window.

Asked if he saw the Negroes break a window, Scholakis, who had arisen from the witness chair, declared: **"I'll have to say I saw one of them break it."**

Faulkner demanded Scholakis and other witnesses be put back on the stand and that he be given permission to cross-examine them. Greenbaum replied the lawyer could question any witness he desired, but not on the witness stand during the hearing.

Faulkner challenged the line of Gelb's questioning.

Greenbaum said Faulkner was not cooperating. Greenbaum asked what line of questioning Gelb should pursue.

"The line of questioning I propose would be very definite," Faulkner asserted. "It would aim to bring out testimony to show the guilt of Patrolman Romeika in shooting and killing the two Ferguson brothers and wounding of another."

Milton Paulson, representing the National Lawyers Guild, took issue with Grenbaum and Gelb stating procedure of the hearing was "not calculated to create a proper atmosphere" for the investigation.

Greenbaum said he would discuss procedure with lawyers and spokesmen for organizations in private. Paulson retorted Greenbaum had no right to discuss matters of the public hearing in private.

One such conference convened during the noon recess, with the press barred. It broke up in a few minutes with attorneys shouting "whitewash."

Thurs 7-18-46

Mrs. Madeline Moher and her daughter, Joan, white women, told how they rode into the Freeport Bus Terminal with the Ferguson brothers prior to the killing. The women testified the Negroes were not creating a disturbance. They said they had been served coffee by Scholakis and that there was enough in the urn to have served the Negroes too.

But Francis Meaney, a bus driver expressing an obvious bias toward the Negroes, was urged on by Gelb. In a loud voice, punctuated with noisy vulgar profanity, Meaney said the Fergusons were "stewed," "fell into the joint" and "knocked over my hot chocolate." He said Charles Ferguson announced he "was going to kil a couple of white men and might as well start on you."

Gelb let Meaney's statements stand without probing them.

Another bus driver, Joseph R. Johnson, said he heard the Negroes argue with Scholakis and said there was some swearing over the coffee incident. He said he walked out of the restaurant to his bus and did not return.

Meaney, however, said Johnson returned again.

Scholakis testified he closed the restaurant every morning at 2:40. He later stated he did not serve the Fergusons coffee when they came in at 12:40 because they "came in two minutes before I was ready to close."

Joseph Ferguson, in Navy uniform, was quizzed at length over an allegation that his brother Charles pretended to have a gun and threatened the policeman when the group was lined up with hands over head in front of the fuel office.

Thurs 7-18-46

Joseph said Charles did drop his right hand to his side just before Romeika fired the first shot. Gleb asked no questions concerning the manner in which Joseph was shot and how he was later cleared by a Navy Board of any misconduct.

Greenbaum recessed the hearing until Friday at 10:30 a.m.

At the close of testimony City Councilman Eugene P. Connolly sent an urgent telegram to Gov. Dewey charging Greenbaum's procedure in the hearing "tends to suppress vital facts."

Filing statements of protest against methods used in the hearing were Dorothy Langston, of the N. Y. Committee for Justice in Freeport; Franklin H. Williams and Lionel Barrow of the NAACP; Rev. W. N. Greene, Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York; Henry Dolmer, Nassau County Civil Rights Congress; Bernard Harkavy, Long Island Division of the American Jewish Congress; Alfred Johannes, Frederick Douglass Cultural Society; Ethel Taylor, Parent - Teachers Assn., PS 184 and Evelyn Tyler, Parents United Against Bigotry.

Let's Face It

Why the Freeport Whitewash?

By Max Gordon Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

IT'S a safe bet that the whitewashing of the Freeport murders as a result of Gov. Dewey's special "inquiry" caused the lifting of not a single eyebrow in or out of the state of New York. Wed- 8-7-46

To put it the other way, the political heavens would have fallen and all political law confounded had there been any other result to this "inquiry."

But Gov. Dewey is, above all, not a revolutionist. So his "inquiry" was a whitewash and the logic of American bourgeois politics can still be safely depended upon. From the time he took office, Gov. Dewey was confronted with a tough problem in political mechanics. He was, and is, the front man for powerful financial interests centered in New York City and for some of the more powerful upstate industrial giants.

He had tied his political career to the reactionary monopoly interests which run the Republican Party. His machine boys and much of his active popular support are drawn from the most backward, reactionary, bigoted sections of the population.

* * *

AT the same time he operates in a highly progressive state, with a great labor movement, a large and politically active Negro population, an enormous bloc of liberal opinion.

His mechanical problem has been to work on behalf of his big business and reactionary sponsors in such a way as to avoid a consolidation of labor, liberal and Negro opinion against him.

His course with regard to Freeport, and the issue of Negro rights generally, is a good example of his problem and his super-slick, double-dealing method of meeting it.

To begin with, the Governor was forced by the overwhelming weight of an aroused and not-to-be denied public opinion to pass a state FEPC bill in 1945.

His own maneuvers to kill such a bill in 1944, when he was out to get support for his Presidential bid from Southern delegates to the Republican national convention, made it impossible for him to evade the issue in 1945 for it had aroused the state against him.

There was also terrific pressure from the side of reaction, from big business and from many parts of the Dewey GOP machine against FEPC. Dewey weighed the two pressures, decided failure to back FEPC would cost him his scalp, and decided to back passage of the bill and then see to it that it hurts no one. He figured that by the time the 1946 state elections roll around, the state FEPC would have convinced everyone it was not much more than a gesture, at least in its practical operations.

There is no doubt he has had trouble on the FEPC question, particularly in the swank

DEWEY

He Needed the Whitewash

circles of Westchester and Nassau Counties which control the machines that give him by far his largest pluralities.

* * *

WHILE still in the process of ironing out that trouble, along come Freeport and the public demand that he take action against the police killer of a Negro GI and his brother, a veteran, the wounding of another brother, and the arrest and amazingly speedy conviction of a fourth, still a sailor.

On its face, an investigation into the killings, and especially into the actions of the Nassau County District Attorney's office for its remarkable speed in exonerating the cop and indicting his victims, was in order.

But Gov. Dewey obviously did not intend to act because it was politically expedient to do so. District Attorney Gehrig is one of the powers of the Nassau machine. Russ Sprague Nassau boss, is GOP national committeeman from New York and one of Dewey's closest political pals and champions.

To act against the shootings not only would be to step on the toes of these men but to endanger all the progress made toward wiping out the stigma of FEPC among the chief props of Republicanism in Nassau and other suburban counties. Wed. 8-7-46

But the pressure continued to grow. The danger existed that political repercussions would be such as to wipe out whatever gains Dewey made among the Negro people and others by aiding, or at least approving, passage of FEPC. And so, in order to take the heat off him, he and his fellow brain-trusters hit on the idea of having Gehrig ask for an inquiry and giving it to him.

It was a crude trick, arrogant in its assumption of public simple-mindedness. But then Dewey is in a tight spot and it will do as a talking point in the election campaign.

As the Freeport Committee has said, however, it will not deflect the drive for justice in Freeport one bit.

See It Through

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Wed. 7-10-46

APPOINTMENT of a State investigator to look into the Freeport, L. I., murders of the Ferguson brothers, Negroes, by Patrolman Joseph Romeika, is a partial victory for the people of New York.

What Governor Dewey should have done, of course, was to appoint a special prosecutor to supersede District Attorney Gehrig—a demand which has been raised for the last five months. This would have completely demonstrated that there were no facts the Administration wished to hide. But even the present action shows Dewey was compelled to take note of the people's demands.

The Ferguson case, it must be remembered, was termed "hopeless" by many.

But the Communist Party of Nassau County, in cooperation with the Daily Worker, began a campaign which drew in much broader forces.

The fact that Dewey acted at all represents a victory accomplishedby mass struggle.

Dewey acted finally, because election time is approaching. He should have acted the day the Negro citizen-soldiers were murdered in cold blood.

It is clear that any real investigation will reveal the Nassau County DA should be superseded and a new prosecutor named in the Romeika case.

The murder of the Ferguson brothers grew out of Jimcrow conditions in Nassau County where segregated schools exist, Negroes live in hovels and the police is openly anti-Negro. Since the Freeport murders, there have been new anti-Negro outbreaks. William Dessaure, Negro lay preacher, was brutally beaten by police, whom the Nassau courts exonerated. Wed. 7-10-46

Continued mass action, and additional support to the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, are the only guarantees against a whitewash in the Ferguson case.

This case is not finished—nor will it be finished—until Romeika is prosecuted and sent the way of all killers. This remains the demand of the Daily Worker, the Communist Party and all decent-minded Americans.

D.A. Said to Have Admitted Swaying Freeport Case Jury

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 9-28-46

NEW YORK (ANP)—James N. Gehrig, district attorney of Nassau County, admitted his complicity in covering up for the Freeport police in connection with their slaying of two ex-service men, Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson, brothers, on Feb. 5, according to Miss Doorthy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, last week.

Gehrig is said to have told how he supported the police in what they had done, and boasted about the criticisms he withstood because of his causing the Nassau County Grand Jury to exonerate Joseph Roemika, the Freeport policeman who killed the brothers, when he addressed the Nassau County Village Officials Association at East Rockaway on Sept. 10.

Speaking of Governor Dewey's part in condoning the action of Gehrig in seeking successfully to exonerate Roemika of all blame for the shootings, Miss Langston declared "there is strong indication that the Governor's brusque action in attempting to close the case and so eliminate it from consideration by voters, is having the reverse effect."

BROTHERS DESCRIBE FREEPORT SHOOTING

The New York Times

Two Whose Kin Were Slain by a Policeman Tell of Row in Lunchroom

New York, N.Y. Thurs. 7/18/46

INQUIRY HERE IS CROWDED

Bus Driver Says a Ferguson Threatened to 'Kill Couple of White Men'

Richard and Joseph A. Ferguson, Negroes, who were present when their brothers Charles and Alfonso were shot dead early Feb. 5 by a Freeport, L. I., policeman, were among nine witnesses who gave testimony yesterday at an inquiry into the case. They were questioned by Sol Gelb, counsel to Lawrence S. Greenbaum, who is investigating the matter in behalf of Governor Dewey.

The hearing was conducted in the Bar Association Building at 42 West Forty-fourth Street. It was attended by more than 100 persons, all who could crowd into the room. Representatives of several groups interested in civil rights were included. Mr. Greenbaum refused to permit any of these to question or cross-examine witnesses but said he would accept their suggestions and recommendations and follow any that seemed worthy.

The most detailed story of the shooting and events preceding it was given by Joseph A. Ferguson, a seaman first class in the Navy who is to be discharged today after thirty-eight months of service. Joseph was hit in the right shoulder by the second bullet fired, the same that killed his brother Alfonso. The first shot had killed Charles.

Lined Up Before the Building

Just before the shooting Patrolman Joseph Romeika had lined up the four brothers in front of a small building used as an office by a coal company. Richard Ferguson was standing at one end of the line, his back to the wall and his hands, like those of his brothers, in the air. Next to him on the left was Joseph, then Alfonso, then Charles, a soldier. The policeman was nearest Charles, about five or six feet from him. Another man, Herman Crummell, had come up and was ordered to raise his hands and stand near the policeman.

Joseph Ferguson said:

"Charles said he might have a his thigh, by his hip—one hand his hands at the level of his head, actual happenings that Romeika ately, Joseph Ferguson said. Al-

.45. When he said that he sort of just dropped like that." 7/18/46 then slowly leaning forward and fired the pistol with which he had though he did not see his brothers

leaned over—not fast, very slowly. The witness imitated the action letting his right hand drop to his been guarding the five men. falling and did not realize at once

He had both hands up, and one of of his dead brother, standing with hip. It was at this point in the A second shot followed immedi- that he himself had been struck

them went down. Well, it got by

in the shoulder, a moment later he saw Charles and Alfonso on the ground, dead.

Patrol Wagon Arrives

Romeika moved aside, took a handkerchief and mopped his face. In a few minutes a patrol wagon drew up and the surviving brothers were taken to the police station.

Richard Ferguson's account of the shooting was far less detailed. He was "feeling pretty good" after having had about seven or eight glasses of beer and three or four glasses of wine, he said, and did not take much interest in what was going on. Thur. 7/18/46

Even when he heard the first shot, he "didn't figure there was anything to it." Then the policeman "just fired again for no good reason." This time Joseph told him he had been hit, and he moved toward his brother, but was ordered to get back and keep his hands up.

The two brothers were the only witnesses to the shooting who testified yesterday. Crummell and the policeman are to testify at a hearing tomorrow morning.

Concerning the activities of the brothers before they were lined up by Romeika there were various stories. The testimony ranged from that of a woman and her daughter who saw the four youths but witnessed no disorder to that of a bus driver who listed vile names that he said Charles Ferguson had called a lunchroom manager.

Activities of Evening

Richard and Joseph Ferguson said they and their brothers met in Roosevelt, L. I., where they live, early in the evening. They moved on to Hempstead, where they visited two beer gardens and had "a few beers." Then they took a bus to Freeport, where they got hamburgers and coffee at the Texas Special. Next they went to the Terminal Tearoom, a bus station lunchroom of which Constantin Cholakis, known as Gus, is the manager. This was some time after 12 o'clock in the early morning of Feb. 5.

Richard and Joseph said the four asked Gus for coffee and were told there was no more coffee, but that they could have cocoa or tea. They declared that this annoyed Charles, who pointed out that the gauge on the coffee urn indicated the presence of coffee. Charles became more and more annoyed, according to his brothers, and called Gus names. 7/18/46

Charles, a private first class in the Army, charged that Gus was refusing the brothers coffee because they were Negroes. He reached over the counter at Gus, but did not catch him. His brothers led him outside and they went away, Charles kicking out a window of the coal building as he passed. They obtained some food, then came back to get a bus for home. Times, New York, N.Y.

As they approached the coal office, the brothers related, Charles and Alfonso were together, twenty or twenty-five feet ahead. Romeika, they said, came out, stopped them and kicked Charles in the groin and Joseph in the hip. Then, drawing his pistol, he lined the brothers up against the wall before which two of them died.

Manager Is Witness

The other witnesses included Gus, the manager, who called the policeman, and George Couloures, a waiter in a Freeport tearoom. They both said Gus remained silent while Charles Ferguson was calling him names. The Ferguson witnesses had said Gus answered in kind. Mrs. Madeline Moher of Freeport asserted that she was in the lunchroom when the four boys came in and when they left, but saw no disturbance. Her 15-year-old daughter, Joan Vollmer, said the same. 7/18/46 Thurs

Joseph B. Langdon, driver of a bus in which Mrs. Moher and her daughter departed, testified that he saw no disorder. Joseph A. Johnson and Francis Meaney, whose buses left a few minutes later, said they saw the lunchroom manager at bay, exchanging epithets with Charles. Meaney declared that Charles picked up some cocoa that Meaney was drinking, threw it on the floor and said he was going to kill a couple of white men and might as well start with Meaney.

The inquiry yesterday was limited to facts surrounding the action of Patrolman Romeika. The Nassau County grand jury, which heard all the witnesses called yesterday, had refused to indict Romeika, whereupon three Freeport residents asked Governor Dewey to supersede James N. Gehrig, Nassau prosecutor, and reopen the case. 7/18/46

Yesterday the petitioners, Adele G. Smith, Ruth Hughes and Richard Sanders, asked the Governor to authorize Mr. Greenbaum to broaden the scope of his inquiry to include background details of race relations in Nassau. The petitioners declared that "public disappointment" might result if this were not done.

1. That Stanley Faulkner be given access to the minutes of the Nassau County Grand Jury and all other pertinent records.

2. That you make public the minutes of the Nassau County Grand Jury.

3. That Mr. Faulkner be allowed to examine witnesses.

4. That Mr. Faulkner be permitted to call for further examination witnesses already questioned by Mr. Gelb.

Further charging the hearing as being a whitewash the statement said "Generally speaking Mr. Sol Gelb is drawing deeply from his considerable experience as Assistant District Atorney of New York. He is once more the ardent champion of the police apparatus. He is doing his level best to show that everything Romeika did was proper, reasonable and justifiable."

The hearing which resumes today, is being held at the New York Bar Association, 42 W. 44th St.

Freeport Probe 'Unvarnished Fraud,' Committee Charges

Daily Worker & New York, N.Y.
Tues. 7-23-46

Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, branded the long-delayed inquiry into the Freeport Ferguson case "an unvarnished fraud" yesterday.

"Everyone of the carefully stage-managed moves in the hearing had the same ring of phoniness as Gov. Dewey's much heralded campaign against the Ku Klux Klan. The people are being fed pills, candy coated ones," she said.

Charging that Lawrence Greenbaum and Sol Gelb, Dewey appointees, are conducting a "show" to exonerate Joseph Romeika, the cop who killed the Ferguson brothers, Miss Langston said:

"The Freeprt case is not going to be brushed off with any such tactics. Our demand that Gov. Dewey supersede the Nassau County District Attorney still stands. Only now is it clear that there is absolutely no other path to justice in the matter."

The investigation was ordered by Gov. Dewey after a storm of public protest, and subsequently Greenbaum announced that he would "welcome" suggestions and facts bearing on the case from any interested party or organization. Stanley Faulkner, the Fergusons' lawyer, however, has thus far been denied the right to actively participate in the questioning of witnesses.

In a letter to Greenbaum, Miss Langston stated, "Since you yourself termed this investigation as an open hearing through the press we demand while the hearings continue:

The Freeport Murder Case Won't Be Buried, Gov. Dewey!

The Worker New York, N.Y. Sun. 7-7-46

By Claudia Jones

Almost half a year has passed since two Negro brothers, one a soldier, were brutally killed on Feb. 5 by a Freeport patrolman. Two others of the Ferguson brothers were imprisoned and wounded. The authorities absolved the cop and considered the case closed.

But for the people concerned this was the beginning of the case.

Freeport, L. I., the site of the crime, is the seat of the strongest Republican County. J. Russell Sprague, Gov. Dewey's mentor, rules this Jimcrow county with an iron hand.

★

THE PEOPLE, including residents of Nassau County, demanded of Gov. Dewey that he supersede the Nassau County Grand Jury and District Attorney James N. Gehrig, by appointing a new prosecutor and by conducting an impartial investigation of the death of two Negro citizens. They also demanded that Patrolman Joseph Romeika, the anti-Negro killer, be brought to justice.

Veterans and trade unions sprang into action. One hundred representative CIO-AFL labor, church, Negro, civic, youth organizations met and formed the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport on Feb. 23.

In all this activity, the Communist Party and the Daily and Sunday Worker gave leadership and support to the Freeport case to expose lynch justice.

There were mass delegations to Albany and to the executive mansion. Over 40,000 signatures on petitions from New York citizens were presented to Dewey.

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MASS RALLIES followed—the largest culminating in Manhattan Center, where Rep. Vito Marcantonio, Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack Councilman Eugene Connolly, Mrs Ada B. Jackson, Rep. A. Clayton Powell and others spoke in protest against Dewey's inaction. But not once did the Governor consider it courteous to meet with these delegations, or even officially important to indicate that the state administration does other than give lip service to uphold equal rights under the law for Negro or minority citizens.

These militant actions resulted in (1) the release of Richard Ferguson from a 100-day jail sentence and of the $100 he had been fined; (2) exoneration by the Navy of Joseph Ferguson, a Navy sailor, wounded by Romeika; (3) exoneration of Charles Ferguson, soldier, by the Army Investigation Board.

Two citations, received by Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of Charles, mother of three children, Charles, Jr., 5; Wilfred, 2, and Richard, 4, from President Truman and Gen. Hap Arnold of the Army Air Forces for "giving his life in performance of his duty."

This exoneration enabled Mrs. Ferguson to receive the Army widow's pension, due her, to support her children.

On April 6, the Freeport committee was threatened in an abusive letter from the Knights and Women of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. signed by one James H. Hanley, Great Kaligrapp.

Despite early "impossibility" of the Attorney General's office to "find" the Klan incorporators it was revealed that Horace A. Demarest, Deputy Motor Vehicle Commissioner for Queens and a leading Republican, was one of the original incorporators. So embarrassing was this for the Albany Administration that Demarest was removed from his post. Sun. 7-7-46

★

LACK OF STATE ACTION on the Freeport case has been the signal for more anti-Negro violence in New York State.

William J. Dessaure, Negro lay preacher and Freeport resident, four months after the Freeport crime, was assaulted by police and railroaded to jail on false charges. At the Rockville Center police court, assault charges against the four cops attacking him were dismissed while new ones were drawn up against Dessaure.

It is half a year since Freeport—but it is also half a year to the coming gubernatorial elections.

The Freeport committee's sound trucks, aided by stalwart National Maritime Union fighters, are taking the story to the people of every community. Committees have been set up in Flushing, Harlem, Brooklyn, Binghamton, Stamford, Conn., New Rochelle, Yonkers, Philadelphia and the garment center of New York.

The Freeport case is growing in significance as a result of the work of the committee's energetic staff, Dorothy Langston, executive secretary; Ruth Sacknowitz, assistant, and Attorney Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family and general counsel.

16b 1946 Negroes, by Policemen (N. Y.--Freeport)

Army's Exoneration of Slain Negro Puts Ferguson Case Up to Dewey

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

wed. 5-17-46

By CLAUDIA JONES

The fight to bring to justice the killer of the 27-year-old Negro vet, Charles Ferguson, shot down in cold blood by a cop in Freeport Long Island, Feb. 5, moved forward yesterday with the Army's complete exoneration of the dead soldier. This campaign, in which the Daily Worker and the Communist Party took an active part from the moment that indignant citizens began a protest movement, was spurred to demand that Governor Dewey act to bring the killer cop, Joseph Romeika to justice.

The Army's investigation announced that Ferguson was innocent of any misconduct. It voted to give his widow the pension due all survivors of men who "died in the line of duty." This decision shatters all the pretenses that Ferguson and his brothers, Alfonzo, also killed, and Joseph, wounded, were guilty of any misconduct justifying the attack upon them as claimed by the police officer and upheld by the Nassau County grand jury in a whitewash.

The Daily Worker yesterday wired to Governor Dewey bringing to his attention the Army's exoneration of the police officer's victims, and urged that he meet immediately with the delegations of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport. He has thus far refused to meet them.

The Communists played a key role in achieving these victories. The Daily and Sunday Worker played an outstanding role. Harry Raymond, ace Daily reporter did a "duty of love" flowing from the convictions which govern us that we are against Jimcrow in any form and from any quarter.

To mention this, is another way of pointing out that not everyone felt that way that fateful Feb. 5 when word came that four Negro brothers were the victims of false imprisonment, murder and death—27 miles away from the greatest metropolitan city in the world. There was virtual silence clamped on the bourgeois press. Their attitude was: "Well — we do not know all the facts . . . 'didn't they have a gun' maybe — the cop was only performing in the line of duty, ad infinitum." wed. 5-17-46

Today, the 40,000 petitioners, the people throughout this nation who support the actions of labor, civic relations Negro peoples organizations are fighting to weld their unity.

They act because they recognize that the lynchlike murder of Charles Ferguson and his brothers symbolize the Jimcrow discriminatory, segregated pattern suffered by Negro citizens. They recognize its kinship to the "Aryan supremacy" doctrines of Hitler against which an entire world battled for four years.

In a word then, the key lesson of the Ferguson case thus far, is: mass struggle. It is this mass struggle that won these victories; it is this too that can force official action to repudiate lynch law and to bring full punishment to the Romeikas and other lynchers of Negro citizens.

TEXT OF WIRE TO DEWEY

16 APRIL 1946

GOVERNOR THOMAS E. DEWEY
ALBANY NEW YORK wed. 5-17-46

MONDAY U.S. ARMY ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE HANDED DOWN DECISION THAT PFC. CHARLES FERGUSON WAS KILLED "IN LINE OF DUTY." THIS CLEARS NAME OF SOLDIER SHOT BY PATROLMAN JOSEPH ROMEIKA OF FREEPORT, L. I., ON FEB. 5. THIS DEVELOPMENT MAKES IMPERATIVE YOU MEET PERSONALLY WITH REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION OF NEW YORK CITIZENS AS PRELIMINARY TO STATE INVESTIGATION OF WHOLE CASE. ACTION OF WAR DEPARTMENT FOLLOWS SIMILAR ACTION CLEARING FERGUSON BROTHERS OF ANY CHARGES OF DISORDERLY CONDUCY BY NAVY AND NASSAU COUNTY COURT AUTHORITIES. COMMON DECENCY AND GOOD FAITH DEMANDS THAT YOU SUPERSEDE THE NASSAU COUNTY GRAND JURY WHITEWASH OF PATROLMAN ROMEIKA AND THAT YOU IMPANEL A NEW GRAND JURY TO INVESTIGATE THE LYNCH LIKE MURDER OF NEGRO CITIZENS AND BRING PATROLMAN ROMEIKA TO JUSTICE. CASE OF FERGUSON BROTHERS IS A BLOT ON THE RECORD OF NEW YORK STATE. URGE YOU GRANT APPOINTMENT WITH THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE IN FREEPORT IMMEDIATELY. wed. 5-17-46

DAILY WORKER

Charles Ferguson Cleared by Army

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Special to the Daily Worker

GREAT NECK, L. I., April 15.—Pfc. Charles Ferguson, Negro GI who was shot to death by a Freeport policeman Feb. 5, was declared by a U.S. Army board today to have indulged in no misconduct against his slayer.

Earlier a Navy Board dropped misconduct charges against Cook 3/C Joseph Ferguson, third brother, shot through the shoulder by the

Clearing of the name of the soldier, whom Freeport policeman Joseph Romeika said he shot to death along with his brother, Richard Ferguson, was likewise cleared of disorderly charges when the soldier threatened him, by the Nassau County Court.

Policeman Romeika was whitewashed by a Nassau County Grand Jury.

Alfonzo. A fourth brother Alfonzo, with a non-existent gun, was announced here by Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family.

WILL GOV. DEWEY ACT?

THE clearing of Charles Ferguson by the army authorities is a major victory for this "Scottsboro case" in the North. New York N.Y.

It is a tribute to the mass struggle of New Yorkers, led by the Communist Party and its press, the Daily Worker and The Worker.

It is a tribute to every trade unionist, civic, religious leader who had the vision to see that support to this case meant to fight without quarter the Jimcrow pattern of Freeport, L. I.; the devastation of Columbia, Tenn., by the would-be native Gestapos of American fascism.

It throws into the open the need for a tumultuous demand of New Yorkers that the governor of this state—Thomas E. Dewey—reopen this case, supersede the whitewash grand jury trial of patrolman Romeika by impaneling a new grand jury and bringing Romeika to trial.

Governor Dewey has not acted thus far either on the revelations of the Freeport crime or of the rising activities of the KKK in New York. Public protest must insist on action in Albany. Wed. 4-17-46

New Yorkers who have helped win this first stage in the fight to bring the killer of innocent Negro vets to justice can help by urging Walter Hart, chairman of the City Council Rules Committee, to report Councilman Ben Davis' resolution No. 66. The resolution urges Gov. Dewey to impanel a new grand jury to bring Romeika to justice. Act now.

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ters, postcards and resolutions demanding that he supersede the District Attorney and immediately institute a special investigation by grand jury or otherwise in the interest of justice in this case."

Continued failure by Governor Dewey to grant an appointment to the N. Y. Committee for Justice in Freeport was scored yesterday by Miss Dorothy Langston, executive secretary. Miss Langston quoted a telephone conversation was held yesterday with Charles B. Breitel, counsel to Governor Dewey, Breitel said, according to Miss Langston, that "Gov. Dewey would be occupied for the next 30 days passing on some 1065 bills and that no appointments would be made for any delegations."

Miss Langston also said that Breitel irritably complained that "less fanfare and no delegations" would be much better for the case.

In a statement issued by the N. Y. Committee for Justice in Freeport, Miss Langston, executive secretary, declared: Wed. 4-17-46

"The official action taken by the Army and Navy and the court decisions prove more than ever that the cold-blooded, quick-triggered action of Patrolman Romeika was the hateful result of rank prejudice which has no place in our state.

"A special prosecutor in his investigation will find that the true facts in this case will warrant another Grand Jury probe.

"The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport urges the people of New York to flood Governor Dewey's office with telegrams, letters, postcards and resolutions demanding that he supersede the District Attorney and immediately institute a special investigation by grand jury or otherwise in the interest of justice in this case."

Make Dewey Act on Freeport 'Lynching', Foster Urges

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Mon. 5-13-46

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey must not be permitted to drop the Freeport murder case, William Z. Foster, national chairman of the Communist Party, yesterday declared.

In a statement issued from national Communist headquarters, 35 E. 12th St., the veteran Communist leader termed the Freeport killings a "lynching" and urged aid to the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport.

Text of Foster's statement follows:

The stain of Scottsboro, one of the most shameful chapters in American history, has come to New York State. The slaying of two Negro brothers in Freeport, L. I., on the night of Feb. 5—one a soldier in the uniform of his country—was a shocking, barbaric affair that was just as much a lynching and fascist-like as the actions of any white supremacy mob in the deep South. Mon. 5-13-46

Charles Ferguson was the Negro GI killed by a Freeport, L. I., policeman along with his brother, Alfonzo. The killing was promptly and cynically whitewashed by the local authorities. To date Republican Gov. Thomas E. Dewey has refused to raise a finger in this case, despite the fact that Charles Ferguson was slain for no reason of lawbreaking; he was simply shot down in cold blood.

Aid it is doubly disgraceful of Gov. Dewey to refuse to heed the plea of tens of thousands of citizens and the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport to see to it that real justice is dispensed with in this case.

The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport is to be commended for the excellent work it is doing to erase this shameful stain upon our state and to win justice for the Negro people, for the whole of the Negro people as well as the white working class and progressive-minded persons in other walks of life will not rest until said justice is obtained. Mon. 5-13-46

Gov. Dewey must not be permitted to let this case drop for political reasons of his own.

Charles Ferguson is survived by his widow, Minnie Ferguson, and three small children. They are destitute. The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport is raising funds not only to press this campaign for justice, but also to secure economic aid to Charles Ferguson's widow and children. The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, with headquarters at 112 E. 19th St., New York City, needs your help. Certainly this is a cause deserving of your help.

Councilmen Blast Dewey For Ducking Freeport Group

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Councilman Benjamin J. Davis and Councilman Eugene P. Connolly yesterday challenged Gov. Dewey's refusal to grant an appointment to the N. Y. Committee for Justice in Freeport.

Jul. 4-16-46

Although the Governor has been informed that a delegation of prominent citizens would present 40,000 signtures on petitions to him on Thursday, Miss Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the committee, stated that "no information has yet been received from Dewey that he will grant such an interview."

Councilman Davis' wire to Dewey stated: **"I have just been informed that the New York Committee for Justice in Freeeport has not yet received an appointment with you to discuss a matter of vital concern to the people of New York State, despite several efforts to get such an appointment. I urge you to grant an appointment with this committee as an expression of your good faith and sincerity."**

Councilman Connolly wired Dewey: **"I understand that the committee has been refused the opportunity to discuss with you with respect to the miscarriage of justice in Freeport, L. I. I cannot credit such stories and urge upon you that you meet with such a committee on Thursday."**

Miss Langston stated further that her committee was "disturbed at Dewey's failure to grant the appointment despite the recent open challenge by the Ku Klux Klan to reorganize in New York."

"Until we hear from Dewey," she stated, "the delegation should hold itself in readiness.. Meanwhile New Yorkers, trade unionists, civic and religious leaders should let Governor Dewey know New York citizens will not tolerate this continued silence and his refusal to heed the demands of New Yorkers to investigate this brutal murder of two Negro brothers, Charles and Alphonso Ferguson." Tue. 4-16-46

The delegation is scheduled to leave on this Thursday from Grand Central Terminal at 8:30 a.m., on the Advance Empire.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS was forwarded to Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of Charles Ferguson, murdered from the bullets of Patrolman Romeika by the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport. Additional funds should be sent to the committee's office, Room 204, 112 E. 19 St., N.Y.C.

Negroes, by Policemen (New York--Freeport)

Freeport Profiles: POLICE CHIEF PETER ELAR GUS SCHOLAKIS

Daily Worker New York N.Y. Sun 2-24-46

By HARRY RAYMOND

Freeport Police Chief Peter Elar told me he was a "fall guy."

That was easy to understand. For Elar is the man who announced for all the world to hear that one of his cops, Joseph Romeika, had "done his duty" when early Feb. 5 he shot to death without provocation a Negro soldier, the soldier's ex-GI brother and wounded another brother, a U. S. Navy sailor.

Exactly two weeks after the slaying I visited Chief Elar in his office in the Freeport Municipal Building.

It was the second time I had seen him. The first time was the day after the killing. Then he was sure of himself. He acted like a man certain of his own invincible personal power.

But much happened during the intervening two weeks. The case had become an issue of national concern. Few fair-minded people would accept the policeman's alibi. He said he thought the Negroes had a gun. But there was no gun.

Letters and telegrams piled up on Elar's desk. They demanded justice in Freeport. They protested whitewashing of the killer-cop. Mass protest meetings sprang up in Freeport, all over Long Island and in New York City. Gov. Dewey was asked to act. And there were rumblings as far west as Chicago.

The heat was on. Sure, it was not white hot as yet. But it was getting warmer in Freeport Police Headquarters.

Jury Whitewashes Killer-Cop

The Worker 2-24-46-Sun.

MINEOLA, N. Y. — Policeman Joseph Romeika was exonerated late Thursday by the Nassau County Grand Jury for the brutal slaying of Charles Ferguson, Negro GI, his brother Alfonso, a war veteran, and the wounding of another brother, Joseph, a Navy sailor, in Freeport, Feb. 5.

New York, N.Y.

And it was in this warm atmosphere that I met Chief Elar for a second time.

I had a photographer with me. Chief Elar said "Ooh" and put his hands over his eyes when I told him we were from The Worker.

"Well, I'm here to talk about the Ferguson case," I told him. That's what they call the case in Freeport. The Negroes who were killed were Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson.

I noticed at once Chief Elar had shifted from his former cock-sure offensive attitude to one decidedly defensive. He had a taste of

The Late CHARLES R. FERGUSON

righteous public condemnation. It hurt.

"It's no pleasure to me that this happened," he said as I sat down and Peter Aprievsky, the photographer, took command of the room. "I've always tried to be courteous to colored people."

I let him talk. I didn't argue with him. Sun 2-24-46

"I know a lot of colored people who are good people," he blurted out, unwittingly revealing a deep chauvinism against Negroes.

He made me think of the hardened anti-Semite's claim that "some of my best friends are Jews."

"But look," Elar said, his big hand stretched out in front of him as if to emphasize the point. "But look, I took that cop off the street."

He apparently was trying to impress me with his belief that this was a good concession to the growing demand for the policeman's suspension.

But a lot of the Chief's huff and guff of a fortnight ago was missing when he said almost plaintively:

"If they can show that that cop is guilty he'll get his medicine. I'll not go to the coop for what one of my men does."

Elar insisted on showing me his .38 calibre detective special pistol. He said it was the kind that killed the Fergusons. He boasted of his exploits of hunting wild game in Canada. The Worker

But I was thinking of the Fergusons. Did he think they were "fair game" for a trigger-happy cop? Maybe. 2-24-46-Sun.

After learning Romeika was a 28-year-old rookie cop, unmarried, an ex-Marine, former private investigator and a Pennsylvania Railroad policeman for two years, we left the Chief to pay a visit to the Freeport Bus Terminal Tea Room.

Gus Scholakis, proprietor of the Tea Room, had refused service to the Fergusons. He is the one who called the cop charging the Negroes were disorderly. New York, N.Y.

Gus was speechless when we turned the camera on him. Maybe it was the quartet of hard-talking, coffee-drinking bus drivers lined up at the counter that worried him. Maybe it was his guilty conscience.

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. 2-24-46 Sun. 16

The Worker New York, N.Y. 2-24-46-Sun.

Were Negroes 'Killed Because They Were Negroes'

By CLAUDIA JONES Daily Worker

FREEPORT, L. I., March 13.—Three tousle-headed kids, sons of Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, were playing on an old spring sofa when I visited her today. I went to get her reactions to the month old case that had been struck me as being very shot into national prominence with courageous. "You came to speak to the lynch-like killing of her soldier husband, Charles, and his brother I told her "yes." Alphonse N.Y. N.Y.

As kids do—in company—they immediately became engaged in a vigorous jumping game, until a police car whizzed in front of their frame house, where poverty stared you in the face without apology. "There goes an old cop," two-year-old Wilfred said, pointing through a broken window.

The kids looked at me embarrassed-like. There was silence.

"Richard says Daddy is dead," Charles told me.

Lewis Jackson, brother of Minnie Ferguson, broke the silence telling me that Mrs. Ferguson was out at the beauty shop and would be right back.

The kids plunged back in to the jumping-game all over the sofa, until suddenly Mrs. Ferguson walked in the front door.

"Sorry to have kept you waiting," she said. Tall, thin, with eyes that looked as if they would grim over.

MRS. MINNIE FERGUSON

3-19-46

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ONLY NEGROES

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Thursday

Mineola Court-

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Chicago Ill. Sat. 6-29-46

NEW YORK—The three children of Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson, who was killed by a policeman in Freeport, Long Island, in February, received recently a check for $750 from the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport.

Petitions have been forwarded asking Governor Dewey to intervene in the case and see that the policeman accused of the killing is brought to justice. Several civic organizations have joined in protesting what they termed a deliberate whitewashing of the wanton murder of the soldier.

Dorothy Langston, executive sec-

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Daily Worker
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ONLY NEGROES 3-14-46

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$750 Check Given Slain GI's Children

Defender

Court-

Killings Give Freeport New Party, Old Issue

PM. Mon. 3. 18. 46

Negro on Ticket As Village Goes to Polls Tomorrow

By Donald D. Ross

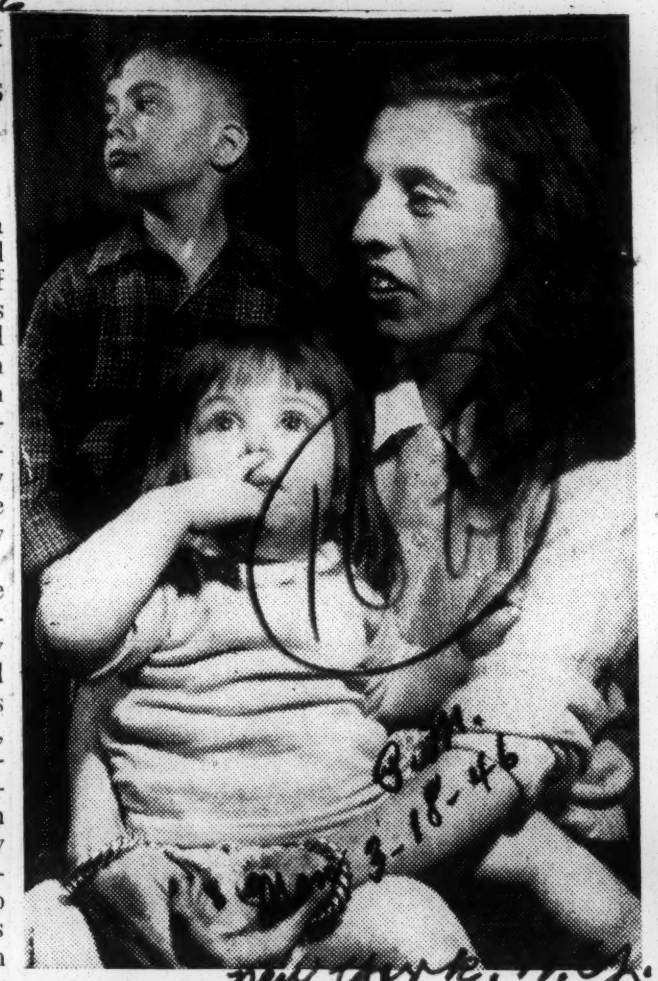
Patrolman Joseph Romeika killed two Negroes and wounded a third early on the morning of Feb. 5 in Freeport, L. I. By this act, which was bitterly denounced by many whites and Negroes in the quiet little town, the policeman unwittingly fathered a new Freeport political party which is shattering Long Island precedent by running a Negro and a white woman in the elections tomorrow for village trustees.

Romeika was cleared of blame in the killing of Charles and Alfonso Ferguson by a Nassau County grand jury, which held that he fired in self-defense when the brothers resisted arrest. A third brother, Joseph, was wounded. But the incident served to bring swiftly together the Freeport citizens—both white and Negro—who have singly been lifting their voices courageously against the miserable life to which the village condemns its 1300 Negroes. The village has an estimated population of 25,000.

The candidates of the new party—the New Village Party—are Mrs. Bradley Smith, 35-year-old blonde Southern social worker, who has lived in Freeport five years, and Richard Sanders, a 26-year-old Negro sign painter who was born in South Carolina and went to Freeport at the age of 4.

Mrs. Smith's husband is a top-ranking color photographer whose work appears regularly in *Colliers, Saturday Evening Post* and *Life*. She has five children, is vice president of the Freeport High School Parent Teacher Assn., has served as a director of the Salvation Army in Hempstead, and has repeatedly attacked the web of Freeport discrimination which, she feels, trapped the Ferguson brothers on the morning of Feb. 5.

Sanders lives in Bennington Park, Freeport's Negro quarter, which a local white clergyman recently roundly condemned as one of the worst slums in the State. He has three children, and has been the head and front of the Negro outcry for a reopening of the Ferguson case. Not many of the Bennington Park people have had the courage to stand with him.



Mrs. Bradley Smith, with Michael and Sharon. She says: "The old order will be on the way out . . ."

The candidates of the Home Rule Party for village trustees are Walter J. Wood, a senior clerk in the Chase National Bank in New York, and Robert H. Paterson, secretary of the Columbian Bronze Corp. of Freeport, manufacturers of marine propellers.

There are two central issues in tomorrow's election, which has already provoked fearful cries of Communism from the conservatives. First, of course, is whether a Negro should become a village trustee. (One citizen said wrathfully: "Would you like the President of the U. S. A. to be a Negro?") The second is whether the village should accept a State loan of $741,000 for a housing project in Bennington Park that would permit one-third of the Negroes there to live for the first time in their lives in decent surroundings. Only property owners can vote on the housing proposition.

The New Village platform calls for acceptance of the State loan; unbiased police administration; opening of Civil Service jobs to qualified Negroes (they haven't risen beyond the job of garbage collector yet); a community house, youth and child care centers.

Mrs. Smith and Sanders haven't a ghost of chance to be elected. But the housing proposition may win. The Freeport Inter-Faith Clergy Council favors it strongly, and has tried to dispel propaganda in the village that the project would make Freeport a mecca for Negroes, pointing out that only those Negroes now living in the ghetto will be eligible for admission to the project.

To the argument that the Negro should be got rid of entirely, the Council replies:

"Who brought him here? Being here and being an American, he has a right to live here; he has a right to expect decent living quarters and a right to be considered as art of the community."

The weekly Freeport *Leader* which recently said in a news column that the New Village Party is "sponsored by a radical element that has little place in a community like Freeport," editorially favors the housing project. The Home Rule Party has taken no stand on the project, but recently warned that "Communism is trying to reach into our village."

Only a handful of Negroes owns property in Bennington Park; the bulk of the real estate is owned by whites who have a vested interest in continuance of slum conditions. The Interfaith Clergy Council points out that although many of the houses in the Negro quarter are unfit for human beings to live in, the average rental is $10 a room a month.

Reports are current that the white real estate interests have hired renegade Negroes to persuade the Negro property owners that they will be cheated if their property is condemned for a housing project.

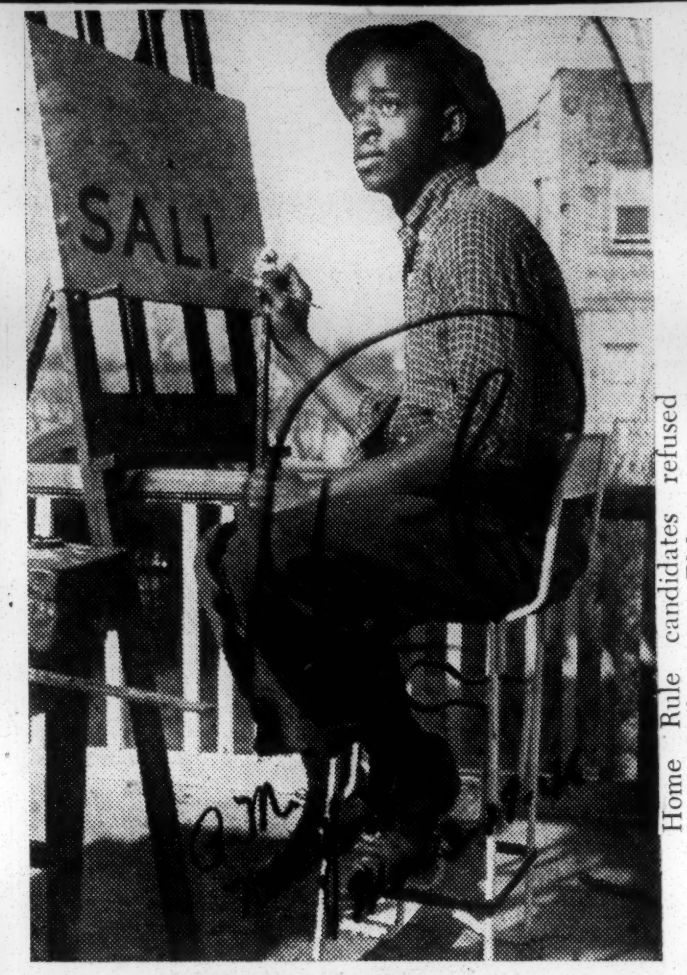
Fear lies heavily over Freeport. Many whites are terrified by the customary visions that arises whenever it is proposed to give Negroes more power and influence. The two Home Rule candidates refused point blank to see a PM reporter or discuss the issues with him. The Negroes are afraid, too, and with more reason. Sanders estimates that 75 per cent of them will vote for him, but that half of this number is afraid to say so openly.

In Bennington Park Negroes will tell you privately that they admire Sanders' courage and that they intend to vote for him and Mrs. Smith. But they shy away quickly when you ask permission to take their pictures or quote them. The white people, they fear, may do them harm.

Mrs. Smith said that many persons had expressed a desire to join the new party, but had been scared away when the conservatives attacked them. Some Freeport women, she said, had been crucified because of their interest in the party.

"You see," she said, "the conservatives really believe that if we succeed in reopening the Ferguson case, get rid of the slums in Bennington Park, and its segregated school, the old order will be on the way out, and they don't like the idea."

Patrolman Romeika, the man who unwittingly fathered the New Village Party, has left off walking the streets of the troubled village. Police Department officials say that he went on vacation March 1 and won't be back until April 1.



Richard Sanders: Not many of his own people have had the courage to stand with him.

Photos by Martin Harris, PM

Bennington Park: Many of the houses in the Negro district are unfit to live in.

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PM
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Bennington Park: Many of the houses in the Negro district are unfit to live in.

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In Bennington Park Negroes will tell you privately that they admire Sanders' courage and that they intend to vote for him and Mrs. Smith. But they shy away quickly when you ask permission to quote them. The current interests have their pictures or quote them. The Negroes to persuade them harm. property owners that Mrs. Smith said that many persons had expressed a desire to join the new party, but had been scared heated if their property values away when the conservatives attacked for a housing project. Some Freeport heavily over Freeport. tacked them. Some are terrified by the women, she said, had been crucified in the sions that arises when because of their interest in the posed to give Negroes and influence. The two party. **you see,**" she said, "the conservatives that although many of the houses are unfit for quarter are unfit to live in, the average rental is $10 a month. to live in a room a month. The Reports are that the Negro quarter, which a local white clergyman recently roundly condemned as one of the worst slums in the State. He has three children, and has been the head and front of the Negro outcry for a reopening of the Ferguson case, get rid of the slums in Bennington Park, and its segregated school, the old order will be on the way out, and they don't like the idea."

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PM
Mon. 3. 15. 46

Negroes, by Policemen (N. Y.--Freeport)

Edward Ferguson Thanks 'Daily' For Freeport Justice Campaign

Daily Worker, New York N.Y.

Ammo Against Racism: Purser Don C. De Sargent of the SS Booker T. Washington hands $125 to Norman Dorison of the National Maritime Union and member of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, to help bring to justice killer-cop Joseph Romeika, who slew the two Ferguson brothers in Freeport, L. I. Miss Dorothy Langston (center) executive secretary of the committee and crewmen of the Washington look on.

Honored: Mrs. Minnie E. Ferguson holds Presidental Citation sent to her husband, Pfc. Charles Ferguson killed on Feb. 5, with his brother Alphonso by race-hating Patrolman Joseph Romeika. Beside her are Cpl. Edward Ferguson and Richard Ferguson, brothers of slain man. The citation reads: "In grateful memory of Private First Class Charles R. Ferguson who died in the service of his country in the America area, Feb. 5, 1946. He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have died that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it, he lives—in a way that humbles the understanding of most men.—HARRY S. TRUMAN."

Edward Ferguson, brother of the two Negroes brutally killed by a Freeport, L. I. policeman, yesterday thanked the Daily Worker and The Worker for their aid in fighting for justice in the case.

FERGUSON

Speaking for his mother, Mrs. Alma Ferguson; his sister-in-law, Mrs. Minnie Ferguson, widow of Pfc Charles Ferguson; and his brothers, Joseph and Richard, Edward Ferguson said, "I want to thank you for the help the paper has given my family."

He came to the paper's office to express his appreciation.

In addition to Charles, Alfonzo was murdered by policeman Joseph Romeika in Feb. 5. Joseph Ferguson was seriously wounded when the patrolman opened fire on the four Ferguson brothers out celebrating a reunion.

Richard Ferguson, a veteran, was sentenced to 100 days in jail for "disorderly conduct," but he was finally released because of mass pressure. Inc. 5-7-46

On Wednesday, Edward Ferguson addressed the May Day marchers from the grandstand at Union Square. Weeks before, The Militant, organ of the Trotzkyites, had advertised that Edward would be a speaker at their Hotel Diplomat meeting Wednesday night.

Though Ferguson had appeared in public at the May Day celebration, the Trotzkyites explained his absence from their meeting with the excuse of "illness."

The Ferguson case was first brought to public attention by the Daily Worker.

MASS DELEGATION TO SEEK JUSTICE FOR SLAIN NEGROES

Daily Worker New York

By CLAUDIA JONES

Carrying a Presidential citation of her slain soldier-husband, Mrs. Minnie Ferguson will appear before Gov. Dewey in Albany today to demand that long-overdue action be taken at once against the Freeport policeman who fired the fatal shots Feb. 5.

Mrs. Ferguson will be accompanied by Edward and Richard Ferguson, brothers of Pfc. Charles and Alonzo, the dead Negroes.

City Councilmen Benjamin J. Davis Jr. and Eugene P. Connolly will go with the Fergusons heading a mass delegation.

SCORE DEWEY

At a press conference at the Hotel Diplomat yesterday, Stanley Faulkner, general counsel for the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport and attorney for the Ferguson family, assailed Dewey's attitude in the case.

"The Governor's attitude in the whole matter," Faulkner charged, "has been one of complete disregard of the seriousness of this case and has reached a point where he not only must answer to members of the Ferguson family, but to the people of New York, as to why he has considered this entire matter so lightly." Inc 5-3-46

The Presidential citation of Charles Ferguson marks the fourth time since the slaying that the whitewash of Patrolman Joseph Romeika, the killer, has been challenged.

● Richard Ferguson was exonerated by the Nassau County Court of any charges of disorderly conduct after he was railroaded to jail on a 100-day charge.

● The U. S. Navy exonerated Joseph, another brother, wounded also by Romeika.

● An Army General Board cleared Charles Ferguson of any disorderly conduct, and stated that he died "in the line of duty."

The Presidential citation followed this finding.

Yet the charge of "disorderly conduct" against the Ferguson brothers was the basis of the cop's whitewash.

Faulkner stated that, **"in view of these developments, it is impossible to believe that an indictment could not be procured against Patrolman Romeika."** Inc. 5-3-46

SEEK INDEMNITY

Faulkner stated that $47,500 total claims have been filed with the Freeport village board for indemnities to the Ferguson family.

Also filed was a formal petition with Gov. Dewye requesting:

(1) That a special prosecutor be appointed; and

(2) That a complete investigation be made of the conditions in the village of Freeport, such as housing, schools, Police Department, etc.—conditions which are responsible for the Ferguson case.

There are no Negro teachers or Negro policemen in Freeport.

Faulkner criticized as "unsatisfactory" the legal probe now under way by State Attorney General Goldstein's office against the Knights and Women of the Ku Klux Klan.

He also revealed that the committee had employed a handwriting expert to check the signature on a threatening letter received by Miss Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the Freeport committee, with those of the signatures on the incorporation papers of the Knights and Women of the Ku Klux Klan.

Miss Langston told reporters that the delegation visiting Albany had not yet received an appointment with Gov. Dewey. Their major demand will be that Gov. Dewey supersede District Attorney James Gehrig, of Nassau County, and appoint a special investigator.

Miss Langston also stated that, "as far as the Ferguson case is concerned, we won't be satisfied until Gov. Dewey appoints a special prosecutor to supersede Mr. Gehrig and give Romeika the punishment he deserves."

Says Phony Drive On KKK to Divert Public Attention

The Call

NEW YORK. —(ANP)— Gov. Thomas E. Dewey is deliberately attempting to divert public attention from the police slaying of two Negro brothers in Freeport, L. I., one of whom was in uniform of an army private at the time, by creating "a phony drive against the Ku Klux Klan," it was charged this week by Miss Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport in a letter to Gov. Dewey.

Miss Langston declared that a threat made against the life of the slain victim's family, or to consider our petition in any manner or form."

Miss Langston declared that she turned over to the New York newspapers a photostatic copy of a threatening letter she received from Klan which was subsequently published last April 9 She notified Thomas Meanwhile, Atty. Gen. Nathaniel L. Goldstein of the Freeport committee's interest in the existence of the Ku Klux Klan in this state, seeking and obtaining publicity for a non-existent campaign against the Klan allegedly to have it outlawed, while at the same time defending the obvious purpose of the letter to Gov. Dewey that the existence of the Klan was called to the attention of the press regarding a threat against the Ku Klux Klan for the fact that a state "is trying to create a phony drive against the Ku Klux Klan in order to divert public attention from the police slaying of two Negro brothers in Freeport, L. I., one of whom was in uniform of an army private at the time, by creating "a phony drive against the Ku Klux Klan," it was charged this week by Miss Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport in a letter to Gov. Dewey. Inc. 5-3-46

of Mr. Goldstein as the result of ing action in a case of outright murder of two Negro residents.

"We have petitioned Governor Dewey to use his powers to supersede James N. Gehrig, Nassau county district attorney who brazenly whitewashed policeman Joseph Romeika of guilt in wanton shooting down Pfc. Charles Ferguson and his brother, Alfonzo, on the night of Feb. 5, and remeanwhile up a special grand jury. To avoid taking outright see our representatives, to see with Asst. Atty. Gen. John P. Pow

ers in Goldstein's office here.

"Mr. Goldstein promised to take swift action to run down and outlaw the Klan leaders," Miss Langston said. "However, he failed to discover that one of the incorporators of the Klan in this state was Horace A. Demarest, deputy motor vehicle commissioner for Queens, and a fellow Republican, until enterprising newspaper reporters forcibly called that fact to Mr. Goldstein's attention.

"In the meantime," Miss Langston continued, "with Governor Dewey's removal of Demarest from office, there the alleged drive against the Klan has, to all intent and purpose as far as results are concerned, bogged down.

"If Governor Dewey and Atty. Gen. Goldstein think they have accomplished their aims in diverting attention from the scandalous miscarriage of justice in the Freeport murders by the Demarest incident, they are mistaken," Miss Langston stated. "Our committee, with the support of tens of thousands of citizens in this state, and outside the state boundaries, are determined to compel Governor Dewey to wipe the stain of a legal lynching from the name of a state that has heretofore been known for its democratic traditions."

Stanley Faulkner in the hearings can we honestly expose the whole truth. "In the name of justice and democracy I appeal to you again to grant these demands to bring the truth and nothing but the truth in this case to the people of our State."

Slain Freeport Vet Cited by Arnold

General of the Army H. H. Arnold, former commanding officer of the Army Air Force, has issued a citation to the late Private Charles Ferguson, who with his brother Alfonso, a veteran, was killed by a Freeport, Long Island policeman on Feb. 5, 1946.

The citation reads in part: "Private First Class Charles R. Ferguson who gave his life in the performance of his duty February 5, 1946. . . . He lived to bear his country's arms. He died to save us honor. He was a soldier and he knew a soldier's duty. His sacrifice will help to keep aglow the flaming torch that lights our lives . . . that millions yet unborn may know the priceless joy of liberty. And we who pay him homage, and revere his memory, in solemn pride rededicate ourselves to a complete fulfillment of the task for which he so gallantly has placed his life upon the altar of man's freedom."

2 BROTHERS KILLED

The two brothers were killed, a third, Joseph, was wounded by Patrolman Joseph Romeika. He was whitewashed of guilt in the slaying, by a grand jury which refused to indict him. One day before the grand jury whitewash, a Navy investigation of the case was completed. Captain Sidney S. Bunting's official statement said, "The evidence now available clearly shows that Joseph A. Ferguson, finding himself in a very difficult position, conducted himself in a manner which in no way can be construed as misconduct."

The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport, with headquarters at 112 E 119 St., New York City, commenting on General Arnold's citation said, "The wording of the citation while paying deep tribute to the slain Negro soldier, also was a sharp rebuke to Governor Dewey, who has failed to use his powers to intervene in the case, and compel Nassau County authorities to bring the policemen, Joseph Romeika, to trial."

Last Friday, Charles Ferguson's name was inscribed on a large outdor plaque containing the names of members of the armed forces, living and dead, of World War II.

Your Home Town

Reflections on a 5th Ave. Penthouse

By John Maiden

Looking out the window near my desk as I write this column I can see a Fifth Avenue penthouse and a large solarium atop a swanky apartment house. A few moments ago a woman walked out on the terrace of the penthouse, dressed in a cool, flowing house gown.

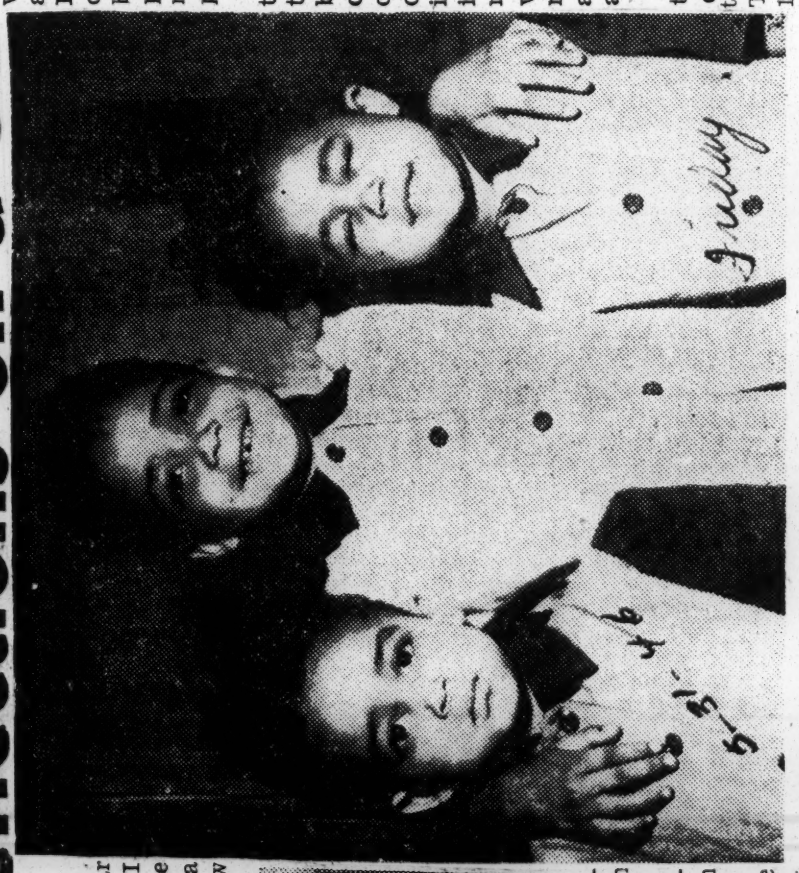
She fingered the green shrubs, looked out over the bright, quiet streets of Manhattan on this Memorial Day morning and then walked back in the penthouse.

I don't know her, she feels secure in this world. She lives in comfort, perhaps luxury.

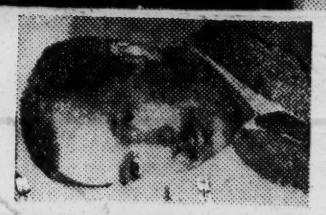
And then I thought of three little kids and their mother, living in a miserable shack out in Freeport, L. I., whose tenuous security was snatched away when a cop's gun blasted out the life of the father.

You know the tragic story by now. Widow Minnie Ferguson and her three little boys, Wilfred, Charles and Richard, are destitute. Their Negro GI father was "legally" murdered, Nassau County whitewashed the lynching. Gov. Thomas E. Dewey fears to step on the sensitive toes of his Republican supporters in Nassau County and won't do a thing.

But there are people who are doing things in this case. Committees seeking justice in the Freeport case are springing up all over the eastern seaboard. The most active body in the campaign against northern lynch terror is the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport and it is headed by one of the most dynamic or-



Richard, Charles and Wilfred Ferguson. Their GI father was murdered.



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"There is one aspect of this case, however, that should not be overlooked," Miss Langston told me. "And I'm afraid it's being lost sight of as the broader features of the drive gets on—that's the personal welfare of Mrs. Minnie Ferguson and her three children. Lord knows, they will need enough to give them, for their upkeep and education. Lord knows, that's a lot, but it will help tremendously.

"There is one appeal to your readers I am asking each and every one who reads this column to chip in an open letter to Mr. Greenbaum, demanded that Stanley Faulkner, counsel for her group, receive access to the minutes of the Nassau County grand jury, that Mr. Greenbaum make public those minutes, that Mr. Faulkner be allowed to examine witnesses and to call for further examination witnesses already questioned by Sol Gelb, Mr. Greenbaum's counsel in the case. The hearings are scheduled to be resumed tomorrow at 10:30 A. M. in the Bar Association Building on West Forty-fourth Street.

Miss Langston's letter to Mr. Greenbaum said:

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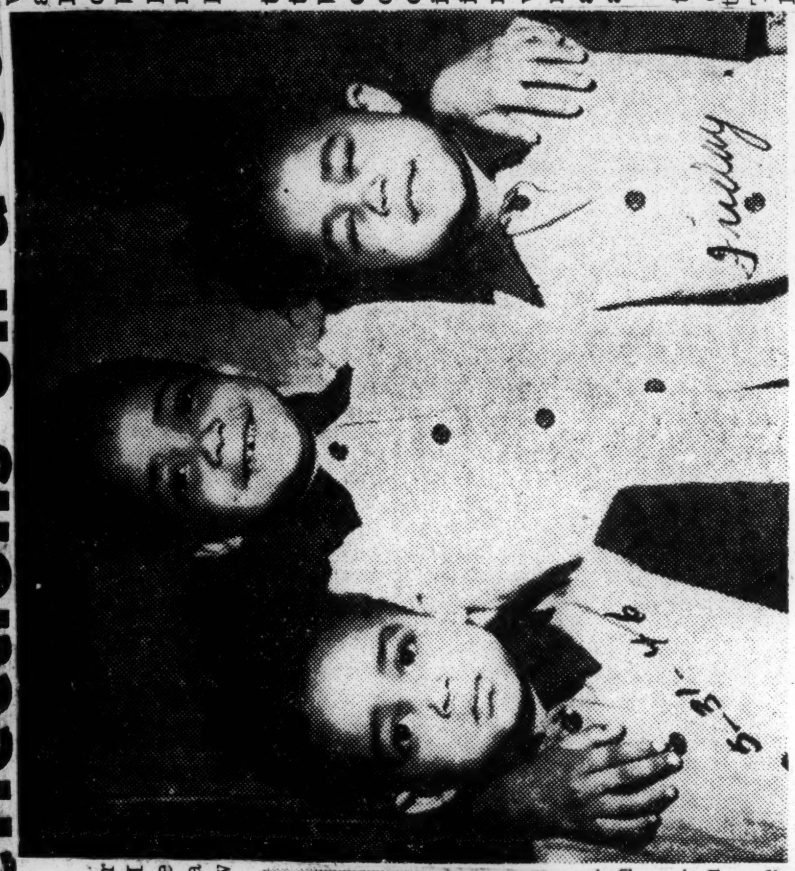

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35 walk out of courtroom as Freeport cop cleared

The Tribune Los Angeles, Calif.

NEW YORK—(CNS) — Thirty-five men and women, including Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Ferguson family, walked out of a courtroom here last week in protest against the continued "white-wash" of Joseph Romeika, white policeman who killed two Ferguson brothers in Freeport, N. Y., last February.

The hearing they left was the third and last in the reinvestigation into the shooting which was brought about by complaints that Nassau county attorney general James N. Gehrig had glossed over the affair to clear Romeika.

Gehrig, the last witness called, kept to his original contention that "if the Fergusons had been white, I don't think there would have been any agitation. Just as if the cop had been colored, I don't think there would have been any protests". He said he was convinced the protests of Nassau county citizens were agitated by Communists. Sat. 8-3-46

At the close of the session, Lawrence S. Greenbaum, who had been appointed by Gov. Thomas Dewey to probe Romeika's acquittal, said he felt Gehrig had acted properly and said he would forward this opinion to Albany.

The mass walkout occurred shortly after the hearing began. Greenbaum had ruled that Faulkner could not cross-examine witnesses. "You have been crying since this hearing started about cross-examination. You can't cross-examine them at my hearing . . . because I have to make the report."

At this, Faulkner rose and declared he would be forced to leave. He was joined by Harold Cammer, New York state CIO attorney, who said, "You are trying to cover up the murder of those boys."

They were joined by about 35 people who shouted, among other things, "This is no public hearing, this is a white wash . . . If you want justice, you have to fight for it." The Tribune Los Angeles Calif.

The group then met and drew up a protest to Gov. Dewey, which read, "The investigation is a fraud and can only follow the prejudiced path of the Nassau county grand jury. We demand that you supersede district attorney Gehrig forthwith. No other action will be acceptable. . ." Sat. 8-3-46

Dewey Refuses to Reopen Ferguson Killing Case

The Afro-America Baltimore, Md.

ALBANY, N.Y.—Following a report submitted to him by Lawrence S. Greenbaum, attorney, Governor Dewey last week, announced that he would not appoint a special prosecutor to reopen the case of the Freeport, L.I. officer who killed the two Ferguson brothers in February.

Appointed by the Governor to inquire into the facts, Mr. Greenbaum reported that there was no evidence of bias or prejudice in the case so far as District Attorney James N. Gebrig's office was concerned.

Questioned Witnesses

He also denied charges that Gebrig had handled unfairly the grand jury action which cleared the policeman. Mr. Greenbaum devoted four days during his study of the case, to questioning witnesses in New York City.

The men killed were Pfc. Charles R. Ferguson, 27, and Alfonso Ferguson, 25, who were shot near the Freeport Bus Terminal by Joseph Romeika, a provisional patrolman, on Feb. 5

Governor Criticized

The patrolman was attempting to arrest the men and two other Ferguson brothers, Joseph and Richard on disorderly charges, when the men alleegdly became abusive and one made a gesture as if to draw a gun. The officer then fired twice. Sat. 8-10-46

Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the Fergusons, scored Dewey's decision and berated him for taking five months to act in a matter of such importance. He said he was not surprised at the Governor's disposal of the case.

Third Serviceman Victim of Trigger-Quick Gestapo Cop

Charge City Officers Resentful of Armed Negro Patrolmen

3-30-46

McALESTER. — A terror reign against armed Negro shore patrolmen by the McAlester local police, was renewed again last week when George Collins, colored shore-patrolman stationed at the U. S. Naval Ammunition depot, was shot three times by city officer Carl Kenny, about 2 a. m. Saturday morning in Victory Park addition. Collins died en route to a hospital.

First degree manslaughter charges were filed against the city patrolman following Collins death, by County Attorney Tom G. Haile. Kenny, the city patrolman, pleaded innocent before Justice of the Peace Ernest W. Thomas. Preliminary hearing was set for next Thursday morning. Bond was set at $1000 which Kenny made.

The violent death of Navy Shore Patrolman Collins is the third such incident since establishment of the Navy-Marine base a few years ago. Two other victims, both at the hand of city police, were LeRoy Steakley, SP-S 3/c, and a navy cobbler named Livingston. 3-30-46

Negro citizens of the community state that on numerous occassions city police sweep down on the colored section making searches and arrests without search warrants, wantonly violating fundamental civil rights. Just a week ago, a car load of service men from the ammunition depot were hauled into the city jail by police officers on charges of speeding and wreckless driving. The men contended they were not driving more than 10 miles per hour.

One of these arrested men, a recent dischargee from the base, is a life-long resident of Oklahoma and related to a Dispatch representative that nearly every Negro citizen of McAlester has learned to look upon the local police as intolerant, Nazi-type storm-troopers as a result of experiences during the short history of the Navy-Marine base.

A general investigation of the shooting and death of Collins is being conducted by Lt. Commanders A. L. Roberts and Wm. P. Baria, officers at the ammunition depot.

Negro Sailor Slain By Oklahoma Gestapo

Special to the Daily Worker

McALESTER, Okla., April 15.—A reign of terror against armed Negro shore patrolmen by the McAlester local police was renewed here last week, when George Col-

Union Voice.

tioned at the U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot was shot three times by City Officer Carl Kenny. Collins died en route to a hospital.

First degree manslaughter charges were filed against Kenny by County Attorney Tom G. Haile. Since that time, there have been witnesses who have stated that Collins was "intoxicated" and Kenny is back on active city duty. Lew 4-16-46

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SEARCH WITHOUT WARRANT

Negroes in the community state that on numerous occasions, city police swoop down on the Negro section, making searches and arrests without warrants, wantonly violating fundamental civil rights. Just a week ago, a carload of servicemen from the ammunition depot were hauled into the city jail by police officers on charges of speeding and reckless driving. The men contended that they were not driving more than 10 miles per hour.

One of these arrested men, a recent dischargee from the base, is a lifelong resident of Oklahoma. He told a representative of the Oklahoma **Black Dispatch**, which first broke the story, that nearly every Negro citizen of McAlester has learned to look upon the local police as intolerant, Nazi-type storm troopers as a result of experiences during the short history of the Navy-Marine base.

Mrs. Minerva Collins, wife of the slain serviceman received a note from Lt. Comdr. A. L. Roberts expressing sorrow as to what hap pressing sorrow as to what happened, saying that Collins had a very fine record, was very conscientious in his duties, was a very fine fellow, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him at the base.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Policemen (Pennsylvania)

INNOCENT MAN KILLED, WIFE SHOT BY COPS

Chicago Defender
Black-Dispatch

PHILADELPHIA, — (ANP) — Two wild shots fired by a policeman at an alleged hit and run driver caused the death of a 29-year old father and the injury of his wife as they stood on a street corner waiting for a trolley with their two children. 8-24-46

The couple, Samuel Ford, and his wife, Elsie, 28, were standing on the corner waiting for a trolly car about 9 o'clock Sunday night. Ford was holding their 13-month-old baby, Betty Jean, in his arms. Mrs. Ford was holding their other child, Constance, 3, by the hand.

The officer, who later admitted that he fired the two shots that struck down the couple, is Patrolman John Woods, 34. He was off duty and in plain clothes.

Peace Officer Held in Death Of Negro Man

Branford Constable Cited Under 14th Amendment of Constitution.

Jones-Union

In the first case here involving the seldom-invoked "deprivation of rights" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment in a criminal proceeding, a Suwannee County constable was arrested yesterday on incidents growing out of the death of a negro prisoner last September.

The constable, Tom A. Crews was taken into custody at Branford by Deputy U. S. Marshal E. Jackson Butler and posted $1,000 bond with U. S. Commissioner Carl Noble for appearance at Court in October. Wed. 6-19-46

According to an information filed by U. S. District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips, Crews, while town marshal for Branford and acting constable for Suwannee County, on September 21 "did wilfully, unlawfully and wrongfully, under color of law, statutes, ordinances, regulations and customs of the State of Florida . . . subject and cause to be subjected Sam Askins McFadden, a negro citizen . . . to the deprivation of rights, privileges and immunities secured and protected" by the Constitution of the United States. Jacksonville

The information charged that Crews arrested McFadden and "forcibly and against his will" took him to a point at the Suwannee River and "did wilfully, unlawfully and wrongfully whip, beat, abuse and otherwise cruelly maltreat" him by striking him "with a cow whip, and striking him upon his head with a pistol and other weapons unknown an did then and there through threats forcibly cause the said Sam Askins McFadden to jump into the river, as a result of which the said Sam Askins McFadden was drowned." Fla.

The case was presented to the Suwannee County Grand Jury and a no true bill was returned. No further action was taken until the matter was presented to the U. S. Attorney-General for investigation, resulting in the filing of the information against Crews. Wed. 6-19-46

The information was signed by Phillips and by Turner L. Smith and Fred S. Rogers, special assistants to the Attorney-General in Washington.

Jury Exonerates Policeman in Death of Youth

The News and Courier
Charleston, S. C.
Wed. 8-7-46

Policeman James F. Tindol was exonerated yesterday by a coroner's jury in the fatal shooting January 22 of Milton Ferguson, alias Wilbur Eison, a 14-year-old negro, who died six months later at Roper hospital from a bullet which severed his spinal cord. He was shot after he was caught robbing a service station at Wentworth street and Ashley avenue.

The coroner's jury found that the policeman fired the fatal shot in defense of his life and in execution of his duties. Policeman Charles A. Best, with Policeman Tindol, said Ferguson was armed with a pistol. The shot was fired when Ferguson attempted to escape. Charleston S.C.

The shot ripped into his spine, and although he lived for six months, he was paralyz d from the waist down.

The inquest was held in the offices of Coroner John P. DeVeaux.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Police (South Carolina)

Alleged Killing in Jail In Greenwood is Probed

Greenwood, June 25.—(U.P.): The Greenwood county grand jury today was investigating charges printed in a New York newspaper that a prisoner in the county jail was beaten to death in 1938.

The alleged fatal beating was described to a reporter for PM, New York evening newspaper, by John Collier, a negro who escaped from the jail, who is now in jail in New Jersey, fighting extradition to South Carolina.

Collier, who escaped late in 1938 while serving a term for housebreaking, told the newspaper he saw James Henry Eppswood, a fellow prisoner, beaten to death with a heavy steel file.

Cab Driver Second Police Victim Within Three Weeks

Memphis World Memphis Tennessee

Memphis police officers have been responsible for the second allegedly gun-battle killing of a Negro within the brief period of three weeks. Most recent slaying by policemen occured Saturday night around 11:30 when 26-year-old Frank Allen, taxi cab driver, of 788 Tate ave., upstairs, was shot five times near Walker and Fourth street.

Patrolmen Johnson and Phillips, responsible for the killing of Allen, charged that the victim shot at them as he and a companion, Ernest T. Christian, 21, of 648 S. Orleans (Rear) fled from their taxicab in which they were reputedly speeding from Walker to Fourth.

Taxicab Driver Killed in Police 'Terror Wave'

MEMPHIS (ANP).—A taxicab driver, Frank Allen, 28, was shot to death by two policemen here Saturday night, in what city residents call a new reign of terror.

The statement of the patrolmen, identified only as Johnson and Phillips that Allen shot at them first, is questioned by many citizens in view of the increasingly terroristic police methods employed here.

made no statement on the conditions in the Negro community that led to the shooting, prominent Negro citizens report a new wave of police brutality and intimidation against Negro business men and cab drivers.

"Police have been searching all Negro cars and places of business," one citizen remarked. "The idea seems to be to wreck all Negro business in the city. Businessmen have been told to get a job, even if it is on a farm."

Seabrook said he will decide what action to take in the Allen killing after reading a full written report by Inspector Wilbur Miller, in charge of the investigation, but it is agreed that the stage is already set to exonerate the two police killers.

"Negroes have no protection from police brutalities here," one man remarked hopelessly. "The law enforcement agencies as well as the courts are anti-Negro. There is not a single aggressive people's organization, including the NAACP here." He declined to speculate on how many indignant Negroes will probably be killed from time to time in protest against inhuman brutalities.

Police Kill Cab Driver In Tenn.

New York Amsterdam News

MEMPHIS (ANP)—A Negro taxicab driver was shot to death here Saturday night by police in a new reign of terror.

The dead man was 28-year-old Frank Allen. A companion, Ernest T. Christian, 21, is being held by police on an alleged gun-carrying charge. Police, whom local cab drivers claim have subjected them to a series of brutalities, started chasing Allen's cab from Walker to Fourth Street.

The killers were identified as Patrolmen Johnson and Phillips by Chief of Police Carroll Seabrook, who claims that they were justified in killing Allen on the grounds that the taxicab driver shot at them. While the chief of police made no statement on the conditions in the Negro community that led to the shooting, prominent Negro citizens report a new wave of police brutality and intimidation against Negro business men and cab drivers.

Memphis Cops Kill Cab Driver

Chicago Defender

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Conflicting Version Of Deputy-Workman Slaying Given By "Grapevine"

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

MEMPHIS, TENN.—(SNS)—A different version of a deputy sheriff's slaying of a 60-year old Negro workman last week has been circulated in the neighborhood where the incident occurred.

The man slain was Andy Barfield, a long-time employee of the Owen Construction Company. His residence was at 373 Butler Street where he met his death. He roomed at the residence. He was shot to death last Wednesday night around 7:30.

According to an account carried in the papers the following day, Deputy Sheriff A. R. Long, went to the 373 address to serve a civil paper. He is said to have gone down a long hall toward a rear apartment where he saw a man and woman sitting at a table. He asked for Andy Barfield; but said both indicated that they did not know him. Then the woman allegedly asked him "What in the ---are you doing in here?" She was said to have slapped the deputy and they scuffled. Then Barfield was said to have gone into an adjoining room and returned with something concealed behind his back. When the officer told him to put it down, it was reported that Barfield pulled a gun and snapped the trigger six times in an effort to kill the deputy. It was then that the deputy scuffled with Barfield and shot him twice, killing him instantly Deputy Long was exonerated by the sheriff.

OTHER VERSION

On the other hand a different version of the affray has been given currency by persons who claim to have witnessed the incident. Refusing to give their names, the informants said Deputy Long went to the 373 Butler address to serve his papers. He is said to have entered the house without knocking. When the landlady met him in the hall, she is said to have thought he was a drunken white prowler, because of his plain clothes. She allegedly told him that she did not know the man for whom he was inquiring and then asked him why he came into the house without knocking.

Daily Ward

The informant said the deputy became angry over the landlady's question and attitude, and asked her if she was "drunk or a dope fiend." He then began to strike her with his pistol. At this juncture, Barfield who was seated at a table in the end of the hall, came up to the couple and attempted to hold the officer and stop him from beating the woman. The deputy called his partner who was seated in a car in front of the house. When his partner arrived, the woman was placed in his custody, and Long turned his attention to Barfield who was still on the scene. The two men were said to have scuffled in the lower end of the hall, and then several shots were heard. Long, allegedly came back to the front and said 'Call an ambulance." Barfield was lying dead in the rear of the hall.

Atlanta Georgia

The landlady was placed under arrest on a disorderly conduct and battery charge. She was later released following the efforts of her attorney. It was later developed that Barfield was the man for whom the deputy was looking. His body was turned over to R. S. Lewis Funeral Company.

2 Negroes Facing Court in Texas 'Freeport' Case

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Sat 4-6-46

EL CAMPO, Tex., April 5.—Two young Negroes come up before a Grand Jury here in May as the aftermath of a "Texas Freeport Case" which saw a third Negro, Navy veteran Kenny Long, shot to death by a highway patrolman on Feb. 25.

Labor lawyers Mandell and Wright of Houston are defending the two, Meron Long and Cosby Clay, and funds are being raised by the NAACP and white friends of the murdered veteran.

FACTS IN THE CASE

The hitherto obscured facts in the killing are as follows:

Kenny Long, out of the Navy after 30 months' service; his brother, Meron Long, veteran of Leyte on a 90-day reenlistment furlough, and Cosby Clay, a cousin, were at a filling station in El Campo at 2 p.m. Feb. 25 drinking soda pop. According to the evidence, a white lounger told Clay to "put his shirttail in" and when Clay replied that it was his shirt advanced on the three young Negroes brandishing a lead pipe.

A police car coming down the street was summoned and brought the three back to the gas station. Deputy Sheriff Gillie McClure began his "investigation" with "Don't you know I hate goddam n----rs?" After hearing their story, he said, according to reports, "I've been waiting to kill a n----r ever since those big leg pants been going around."
Sat 4-6-46

COP PULLS TRIGGER

The three white officers, McClure highway patrolman Holland and Constable Stancliff, then are reported to have started slapping and punching the three Negroes around, calling them "overbearing" for not cringing sufficiently. McClure, the report continues, then drew a pistol and pointed it at Meron Long. Kenney Long knocked the pistol to the ground to save his brother, whereupon highway patrolman Holland shot Kenney dead.

Meron Long and Clay were handcuffed, beaten and held in Wharton jail for aggravated assault. Both were released on $500 bond after refusing Holland's suggestion of a trial the next morning.

The reports of the local press and the story of the sheriff conflict on many important points.

Carver had been ordered to pick up Taylor on suspicion of selling marihuana. Failing to locate Taylor, he was returning to headquarters when he saw children watching a man on the river bank who had let his trousers fall to his ankles. He arrested the man, who turned out to be Taylor, and was driving him to the police station when Taylor suddenly slashed his right cheek with a razor. The two struggled, then Carver shot Taylor to death.

Overseas Vet Slain By White Texas Cop

Chicago Defender Chicago, Ill.

HOUSTON, Tex. — (ANP) — Kenneth Long, 24, a navy veteran of 30 months' service, nine of which were spent overseas on Guam, was shot to death by a highway patrolman near here reportedly following an argument which ensued when a companion refused to obey a white man's orders to "put his shirttail in."

His brother, Marion Long, 22, and Causley Clay, 26, were jailed on aggravated assault charges, and will be held to the May grand jury.
Sat 3-23-46

Patrolman Holland, the slayer, fired because he said "the Negroes were overbearing in their attitude." Long, shot three times, died instantly. The slaying occurred at Southport service station at El Campo, where Causley and Marion Long had stopped for a cold drink. The white man's command was directed at Causley, and Kenneth Long joined them later. Officers approached on the case were reluctant to give out information. However, a story from the sheriff's weekly news letter of last week gives a different version.

Officer kills Negro, but it's a different story

Tribune Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 9-7-46

SAN ANTONIO—A white deputy constable shot and killed a Negro golf caddy here last week, but it was a different story from all the race hate reports which have been spewing out of the South. The evidence all pointed to justifiable homicide even though the shooting locale was Texas.

Dead was Joe "Weasel" Taylor, 30, shot by Maurice B. Carver, deputy constable, when he suddenly slashed at the officer with a razor after he had been arrested for indecent exposure.

Negroes, by Policemen (Va.)

Va. Policeman Sued In Killing

Journal - Guide

New York Woman Seeks $15,000 Damages For Death of Brother In Petersburg

1-19-46

PETERSBURG, Va. — Attorneys representing Miss Roxie A. Reed, of New York City, filed suit this week in the Federal District court in Richmond for damages in the amount of $15,000 against R. B. Shillcut, former Petersburg police officer, in connection with the shooting and killing of her brother, Pvt. Thomas Reed, in Petersburg on Jan. 13 last year.

On the day of the shooting, Pvt. Reed, who was stationed at Camp Lee, was on a visit to Petersburg while off duty. He was arrested by two M. P.s when Mr. Shillcut, who was a local civilian police, appeared on the scene. 1-19-46

CHARGES MADE

The officer, despite the gathering of many spectators where the arrest occurred fired his gun at Pvt. Reed injuring him in the face, head and left thigh, according to the plaintiff. The soldier fell to the pavement where he lay about 20 minutes. When an ambulance finally arrived, he was dead. 1-19-46

The petition filed by Attorneys R. H. Cooley Jr. Petersburg, and Attorneys S. W. Robinson III, Oliver A. Hill, and Martin A. Martin, of Richmond, Va., declares that the officer "unlawfully assaulted" the soldier and "maliciously, wilfully, wantonly, recklessly, and negligently shot a gun in the direction of and at" the soldier.

The document also alleges that the injuries inflicted on the soldier caused his death, and that the "heirs, next of kin, beneficiaries, and estate" of the victim "have sustained damages in the sum of $15,000." The petition demands a judgment against the officer in this amount plus court costs. 1-19-46

Mr. Shillcut has been a member of the Petersburg police force since August 15. He is now making his home in Richmond.

Pvt. Reed was a resident of New York City. Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Castella Reed; one brother, John Washington Reed, in the Army, and eight sisters, Roxie A. Reed, Mattie Melton, Elizabeth A. Jackson, Carrie Banks, Mary Robinson, Annie Massenburg, Mamie Foust, and Ellie Reed.

Man Is Killed By Police In Pittsylvania

Richmond Time-Dispatch
Richmond, Va.

DANVILLE, May 20—Sheriff Archer Overbey, of Pittsylvania County, today said that the slaying of Richard Patrick, Jr., Negro, after a night's disorder at Gretna on Sunday "could not be helped," and that county officers were compelled to shoot him in their own defense.

Overbey, who was present at the killing, said that it was preceded by an assault on A. J. Deboe, chief of police at Gretna, at 11 P. M. last night, when the chief, unaided, sought to arrest Albert Patrick, alleged to have been creating a disorder. Several Negroes present, including Richard Patrick, are said to have attacked the police chief, disarmed him, knocked him down and kicked him so severely he was in painful condition today. Jue. 5-21-46

The attack on Deboe resulted in a call being sent to Overbey, who arrived at Gretna, with a party of deputies, at 2 A. M. today.

Patrick was overtaken walking along the highway. Under the beam of an automobile spotlight, he was called upon to surrender, Sheriff Overbey said, when he drew a pistol, later identified as the one taken from Deboe. The officers then ired at the Negro, who disappeared down a fill. Deputy Holland Thomas pursued and caught him, the sheriff related, but Patrick tore away from him and was found dying a few minutes later, 200 yards away. The Deboe pistol, with four expended shells, was found nearby.

Coroner H. H. Hammer of Chatham could not say whose bullet caused Patrick's death, and rendered an open verdict. 5-21-46

TWO UNNECESSARY DEATHS

Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington
By E. I. R.

When the curtain fell on the pistol battle between the police and Eugene Moszee Friday morning, Nov. 16, confirming the death of Patrolman Fred Hull, Eugene Moszee, filling station operator, and wounding Patrolman Ralph Osborne, the disclosure revealed: Two Unnecessary Deaths.

The whistle for which two lives were paid was not worth the price. At best, the disturbance was nothing more than a misdemeanor, not committed in the presence of officers.

Following a disturbance in a tavern, the police were called and the address of Moszee, filling station operator, 19th and Madison, was given.

Throwing their greatest asset, caution, out of their car window, the officers drove to the station. There they requested Moszee to open up. Moszee replied, "You can't come in here without a search warrant. If you come in here, you'll be sorry. I'm warning you, don't come in here."

Moszee was in his own place of business, presumably armed, because of his warning. The warning,, given was equivalent to "caution, look out, seek shelter."

Though 20 years in service, caution, the chief asset of any officer, had already been thrown out of the window. Moszee's warning was not the cry of wolf.

Just a bit of that caution would have left Patrolman Fred Hull to welcome two little kiddies, scarcely out of arms, and to cherish a wife who must bear her burden alone; Patrolman Ralph L. Osborne would not be nursing a foot wound, and Eugene Moszee's dream of a chain of filling stations would have remained unshattered and no bitterness left in the heart of a surviving cousin.

EUGENE MOSZEE

Said to have operated filling stations at his home in Texas, Eugene Moszee came to Seattle five years ago and began the operation of the station, which is now his monument. Moszee dreamed of a chain of filling stations. He had the reputation of being a hard worker. We understand he was purchasing the property adjacent to his station.

For several years he has been known as a foe of discrimination, and fought it like a demon, with or without aid. As such he was frequently called an iconoclast, a one-man crusader, a John Brown against discrimination wherever he found it. We regret a police record clouds his life in Seattle. None names him a convict.

Moszee died in a gun battle with police, his mission unfulfilled. As laudable as it may appear, his methods brought his race more harm than good.

Moszee's methods do not point the way.

POLICE DISCRIMINATION

Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington
By E. I. R.

The Inetrracial Action Committee in seeking a probe of the killing of Eugene Moszee, service station operator, states:

"At the same time it is well known that the Seattle police force has a long record of discrimination against Negro people of Seattle."

We make no brief for the Seattle police department, but there are thousands of Negro law-abiding citizens who will refute that statement. It may fit a few individuals with whom we have no acquaintance or whose acts are unknown to us. In the main, the Seattle police department is freer from discrimination than any city in the United States. For years it has borne that reputation. So much so, that it has become the Mecca for a class of citizens we do not cherish.

As a business man for fifteen years, and for a long time head of the largest Negro organization in the Northwest, we were forced not from choice but from necessity to frequent the police department because of complaints. During of all that time, and to this day, more than 20 years, only four times have we charged a police officer with discrimination because of race. We named and published the officers charged and the department, convinced, acted quickly to halt it, and to our satisfaction in each case. Four individual cases of discrimination in 20 years in a department officered by five or six hundred men is a very good record.

No police chief then or since is more widely known among Negroes here than Police Chief Herbert D. Kimsey. Not a reputable citizen will accuse him of condoning discrimination.

Negroes of Seattle must not be led to believe the police department is their enemy. We need the police and we should regard them as friends rather than enemies. We need police protection as much as other citizens of Seattle. Criminals know no race. Too, there are two very fine officers, Patrolman Carl Norris and Patrolman Claude Norris, members of our own race. A blanket charge of discrimination against the department would per se include them. Are they, too, guilty?

The Northwest Enterprises on several occasions has taken issue with the police department,, but only once under a former chief has the charge been "discrimination."

The present chief of police, Herbert D. Kimsy, has scrupulously sought to free his department of the charge of discrimination. For God's sake do not let us array ourselves against the entire police department in any effort to correct our grievances.

Discrimination is as odious to us as to any living Negro, but we will make no attempt to correct the evil by force, or involve anyone when force is used.

When the end comes, if it ever does come, it will come by reason, not otherwise.

16b 1946

Negroes, byPolicemen (Wis.)

Milwaukee Army Prison Guard Kills Mississippi GI

Chicago Defender

By JAMES C. APPERSON
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Death struck at the United States Disciplinary Barracks here last Saturday.

Nathaniel Jackson, 23, of Natchez, Miss., war veteran, was shot down by one of the institution's white guards after he and five other Negroes allegedly started a disturbance over more food following the Saturday lunch hour.

Col. Clarence P. Evers, commandant of the institution, entered the cell block with a guard detail but according to the present report the dissatisfied prisoners refused to listen and attacked the colonel and the guards.

Guards Fire Into Prisoners

At the time the report states the accompanying guards were armed only with "light" clubs. However, additional guards immediately rushed to the scene carrying guns. One of these guards fired the bullet that killed Jackson.

The Milwaukee Disciplinary Base has long had a reputation for bad treatment of Negro inmates since most of the guards assigned there are from the southern regions of the United States.

The institution, formerly Milwaukee's House of Correction, was taken over by the army in June, 1945. The guards are not trained MPs but members of 1615th Service Command Unit. Catholic Chaplain Allen Madden stated that this is the first serious incident at the barracks involving members of both races and said that all the housing and athletic activities are integrated.

In a meeting on Monday the Milwaukee Branch of the NAACP moved to send for a representative of the main office in New York City to investigate the Jackson slaying. It was also announced by Atty. James W. Dorsey, president of the Milwaukee NAACP wing and state chairman of the Council for a Permanent FEPC, that he and Comer Cox, Boys' Work Secretary and Milwaukee Urban League official, had asked Congressman Andrew Biemiller (Dem. Wis.) to probe the Disciplinary Barracks set-up.

In addition, the Community Council, the American Legion, the Milwaukee County Interracial Federation, Mayor John L. Bohn's Interracial Commission and Milwaukee Communist Party, are demanding a thorough investigation.

In a statement to the press on Sunday, Colonel Evers stated that conditions at the camp were as "peaceful and serene as a Sunday School." However, a few hours later an alarm was out for two trusties who deserted the "serene surroundings."

Capt. T. J. Cameron, judge advocate at the barracks, continued his official probe of the killing, but stated that questioning of those involved should be over within "two or three days."

Joseph LaMonte, assistant Milwaukee County medical examiner, stated that he had no jurisdiction over the Jackson slaying since it occurred on a Federal reservation, but said if the Army solicited a report he would list justifiable homicide as the cause of death on the basis of information given him by barracks officials.

Negroes, by Posse (Georgia)

Ga. Mob Tracks, Lynches Farmer

Baltimore Afro-American, Md.

TOOMSBORO, Ga. — George Hill, a tenant farmer, was lynched here, Friday, by a mob which hunted him down after he had been accused of slaying the white wife of the owner of the small dairy farm and critically wounding her husband.

Sheriff George Hatcher justified the killing of Hill by stating that he had resisted arrest by firing on the "posse" which had gone to arrest him. Sat. 11-23-46

Lynchers Whitewashed

No motive as to why "Hill" allegedly shot Mrs. Dora Gilbert, 70, and her husband, Sam, 62, was advanced by the sheriff, who stated that Hill "apparently went amok, completely crazy."

He said that no racial ill-will was involved in the affair and that the mob which tracked Hill down and shot him to death was led by deputized officers.

Man Accused Of Going Amok, Killing Woman

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga. Sun. 11-17-46

Wife Gives No Reason For Shooting—Sheriff

TOOMSBORO, Ga. — (SNS) — A mob—termed a quickly asembling posse—tracked down and lynched a Negro farm hand accused of slaying a white woman and critically wounding her husband last Friday.

The lynched man was identified as George Till, a tenant on the farm of Sam Gilbert, white, who was shot and his wife killed.

According to Sheriff George Hatcher there was no racial illwill involved in the affair. He said that the posse, led by deputized officers shot and killed Hill when he allegedly resisted arrest by firing on the possmen.

NO REASON GIVEN

The dead man's wife could give no reason for the husband's actions according to the Sheriff. She was quoted as saying Hill shot the white man in the front yard of the Hill tenant house and then fired at the white woman who was seated in the couple's car. Hill then allegedly set fire to his own house, his barn and a nearby vacant house before fleeing to a second vacant house.

The sheriff said he fired on members of the posse from the vacant house and finally ran into a wooded patch where he was slain.

Jake Hill, a cousin of the slain man, was credited with firing a shot which diverted George Hill's fire as he aimed at a posseman.

The wounded white man was in critical condition at Milledgeville hospital.

Georgia Posse Defender Kills Suspect; Second Confesses'

Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-30-46

ATLANTA—"Vigorous police questioning" brought a second "confession" of murder from a Hart county farm hand here late last week, while in a second killing in Georgia's recent murder wave, the posse-inflicted death of the suspect "closed investigation," according to county officials.

In the first killing, Quiller Daniel was said to have signed a second confession that he killed a 43-year-old white man and his married companion "of whom Daniel was insanely jealous," on a lonely country road Nov. 14. Capt. Ben W. Seabrooks, chief of the Atlanta Police Identification Bureau, said Daniel admitted the shotgun slaying after he had followed the couple to their trysting place. Daniel is held in Fulton tower for safekeeping, Seabrooks said.

At Toomsboro, Sheriff George Hatcher of Wilkinson County claimed that the quickly gathered posse which killed George Hill Nov. 15 had acted in self defense after Hill shot first at them, and that "no further investigation will be made." Hill was sought for alleged slaying of Mrs. Dora Gilbert, 62, and for critically injuring her husband, Sam, 70, Hill's former employer. Hatcher said that as no motive was found, police would but suppose Hill "went completely crazy."

Georgia Negro Killed By Posse Of 75 Men

The Advertiser 16b

TOOMBSBORO, GA., Nov. 15.—(AP)—A posse of 75 white men today hunted down and killed a Negro who had shot to death the 62-year-old wife of a retired rural mail carrier and seriously wounded the carrier, Sheriff George Hatcher said.

Mrs. Dora Gilbert was killed and her husband, Sam Gilbert, 70, had an arm nearly severed by a charge from a 12-guage shotgun. Montgomery, Ala.

Sheriff Hatcher identified the Negro as George Hill and said he "apparently went amok." The Negro was a tenant on the Gilberts' farm. Sat. 11-16-46

Georgia Posse Hunts, Kills Alleged Slayer

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa. 16b Sat. 11-23-46

TOOMSBORO, Ga.—Trapped in the woods, after he allegedly fatally shot Mrs. Dora Gilbert and injured her husband, Sam Gilbert, white, George Hill was killed by a posse of seventy-five white men here last Friday.

Sheriff George Hatcher, who led the searching party, declared that Hill had "apparently went amok" prior to shooting the aged Gilbert couple, on whose farm he was a tenant worker.

According to Sheriff Hatcher, Mrs. Minnie Hill, the slain man's wife, said that her husband went into the Gilbert home, grabbed a shotgun and shot Gilbert down. Next he went to an automobile in which Mrs. Gilbert was seated, and fired through the window, fatally wounding her.

After that he set fire to a barn, and a vacant house nearby, she said.

MOB CORNERS HIM

Following the slaying, Sheriff Hatcher formed a posse and tracked Hill down.

When they cornered him in the woods, the Sheriff claimed that Hill was killed after an exchange of fire.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Whites (Ala.)

Man Shot To Death In Act Of Robbery

Birmingham News
Birmingham Alabama

A Negro man, identified as John D. Studmire, an ex-convict whose address was given as 719 North 14th Street, was shot and almost instantly killed as he was trying to escape after committing a burglary at 505½ North 17th Street early today, police reported.

Investigating officer said Studmire and Robert Waters alias Johnnie Rivers, Negro, identified as a paroled convict, were caught in the act of burglarizing rooms at the Northside residence by Joe Santoro, a resident there.

Santoro, the officers said, flashed a light on the two Negroes and Waters jumped out of a window while Studmire ran down a hallway toward the stairs. Santoro fired several shots at the fleeing Negro, one of the shots striking Studmire in the chest, according to the officers.

Studmire, although shot, continued running north along 17th Street to Fifth Alley where he fell dead in the alley, the officers reported. Waters was caught a few minutes later by Officers J. F. Falkner and H. E. Carroll, hiding in a chicken house at the rear of the house they had burglarized. He was placed in jail on burglary and grand larceny charges.

Studmire has a criminal record dating back to 1929, including five convictions on grand larceny charges, police said a check of his record at the Bureau of Identification showed. He had only recently completed serving a term of 180 days in jail and fine of $100 and costs on Police Court for drunkenness and disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Wed 2-20-46

The officers said their investigation showed the two Negroes had removed all the light bulbs from the hallway in the residence they burglarized in an effort to prevent being detected.

City Detectives George Palmer and E. B. Lewis were assigned the case. A finding of justifiable homicide was returned later today by Coroner Joe Hilderbrand.

Ex-Convict Slain By Birmingham Resident

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, Feb. 20.—(AP)—A Negro man, identified by police as an ex-convict, was shot and killed here early today after burglary of a northside home.

Patrolman J. F. Falkner identified the dead Negro as John D. Studmire. Wed 2-20-46

Falkner said he was shot by a resident of the burglarized home as he attempted to run.

Cullman Man Ordered Held In Negro's Death

Birmingham News 6-26-46

Alfred Otto Willingham, 52, Cullman, was ordered held under $1,000 bond to await action of the Grand Jury after a preliminary hearing yesterday afternoon before Judge G. C. Boner in County Misdemeanors Court on a charge of second degree manslaughter.

The charge was filed against Willingham after the death of Coleman Austin, 62, Negro, 819 29th Court, North, who was injured on May 31 when the horse-drawn popsicle cart in which he was riding was struck by a truck driven by Willingham. The accident occurred on the Lewisburg Highway near the Birmingham city limits. Birmingham Ala.

The state yesterday offered testimony regarding two previous convictions of Willingham on charges of reckless driving and state highway patrolmen asserted he had been drinking the afternoon of the accident. The defense offered no testimony at the preliminary hearing. Wed. 6-26-46

1946, CRIME, KILLINGS

Continues on Reel 95